



## ***Dinosaur Detectives***

**1** Some of the pictures in this book are photographs, but many are illustrations or have been created digitally. Why do you think that is? Which do you think are more helpful in supporting the information in the text?

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.7*

**2** Look at the sidebars on pages 6, 7, and 9. What is the general purpose of the sidebars? How do they compare to fact boxes in this and other books? What is the specific purpose of the sidebars on pages 6 and 7?

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.5, RI.5.5*

**3** Compare the sections Dinosaur Hunters, The Great Bone Rush, Dating the Dinosaurs, and Baby Dinosaurs with the other sections in the book. What is the major difference in how they are written? What different effects do the different styles have on the reader, and which do you prefer?

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.6, RI.5.6*

**4** Look at page 29. Why did people believe Marsh's bird's skull supported Darwin's theory?

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1, RI.4.8, RI.5.8*

**5** Read the information about Jack Horner in the section Baby Dinosaurs. Choose at least three main facts about what he did, and rewrite the information from Jack Horner’s point of view, like a journal entry.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.6, RI.5.2*

**6** Look at this sentence from page 42: “In 1978, a paleontologist named Jack Horner was visiting a fossil shop in Montana, USA.” What does “paleontologist” mean? Use a quotation from the book as part of your response, and explain how you used this to help you figure out the answer.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1, RI.4.4, RI.5.1, RI.5.4*

**7** Was a pterosaur a dinosaur? Explain how you found out.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1, RI.4.4, RI.5.4, RI.5.7*

**8** Find three quotations that give information about Gideon Mantell, from three different pages in the book. Give the quotations and their page numbers.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.5.1, RI.5.7*

**9** In your opinion, were Mary Anning’s or William Buckley’s discoveries more important? Use at least two quotations from the text to support your answer.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.3*

**10** Imagine you are writing the blurb for the back cover or online listing of this book. Summarize what the book is about in one or two sentences, making it sound interesting and enjoyable.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.2, RI.5.2*

**6** A paleontologist is someone who studies ancient life. Answers will vary. Example answer: I figured this out because the glossary says paleontology is the "study of ancient life."  
**7** A pterosaur was not a dinosaur. The reader should have used the glossary to look up "pterosaur" and referred to the relevant text to find their answer. (The reader should make an inference from the text on page 15, which says "Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that lived at the same time as dinosaurs.")  
**8** The reader could choose any quotations, which can be found on pages 6, 16–21, and 23–24. Example answer: "This English doctor found a beast he called Iguanodon." (page 6); "Gideon Mantell (1790–1852) visited up to 60 patients a day." (page 16); "I already knew of the giant sea reptiles discovered by Mary Anning at Lyme Regis." (page 20).  
**9** Answers will vary, but should be justified and supported with quotations. Short example answer: I think Mary Anning's discovery was more important because she found the fossils first and shocked geologists. William Conybeare said, "I have never seen anything like this before!" She also discovered that there were some flying reptiles as well as swimming ones: "Then, last year I discovered a reptile with wings!"  
**10** Answers will vary. Example answer: This book is all about the fascinating history of finding fossils!

## Answers

- 1 Photographs of dinosaurs (and of some of the fossil-hunters) do not exist. Answers will vary. Example answers: The photographs are more helpful because they show how people and fossils really looked. / The illustrations and graphics are more helpful because it's important to see what dinosaurs looked like.
- 2 The sidebars act like fact boxes separating related (but supplementary) information from the rest of the text; they, however, contain several facts at a time. (The reader could make other comparisons.) The sidebars on pages 6 and 7 specifically give information about where in the book readers can find information about different fossil-hunters.
- 3 Most of the sections of the book are written from the point of view of historical figures, like journal entries (in the first person); the listed sections are not. Answers will vary. Example answers: I prefer the descriptions by the characters because people's experiences and feelings are interesting. / I prefer the factual pages because they give the information more quickly and clearly.
- 4 Darwin's related theory was that dinosaurs evolved into birds. The bird's skull had teeth, which people believed showed a link between reptiles (with teeth) and birds.
- 5 Answers will vary. Short example answer: I managed to trace the fossil I found to a rocky hillside and began to dig. To my astonishment, I uncovered a dinosaur nest over 6 feet wide! I'm sure the soil around it will contain interesting evidence.