



Dinosaurs Discovered

1 Scientists who study dinosaurs look for their fossils. Read page 8 and explain how a dinosaur fossil is created. Describe what happens to the dinosaur's body over time.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.3

2 Turn to Dinosaur Discoveries on pages 10–11. When was the famous “dino-bird” discovered? What important discovery happened in 1993? What is the name for the way the text and pictures are presented here?

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

3 Look at the Dinosaur Map on pages 12–13. Where did the Velociraptor come from? What type of dinosaur came from Argentina?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.7

4 Read about the Europasaurus on pages 18–19. What did scientists find surprising about this dinosaur? Why was this dinosaur different from the rest of the dinosaurs in the same family?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.2, RI.4.2

5 Read about Sir Richard Owen on page 20. When did he introduce the word “dinosaur” for the first time? What had people previously thought that dinosaurs were?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.1, RI.4.1

6 Turn to Digging in Asia on pages 22–23. How large was the first nonbird dinosaur with feathers? Did this discovery help scientists’ understanding about the connection between dinosaurs and birds?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.1, RI.4.1

7 Read about the Deinocheirus on pages 26–27. What reason does the author give for why the scientists in 1965 did not know what the dinosaur looked like? How was the mystery solved in 2014?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.8

8 The author describes the Giraffatitans on pages 32–33. What does the dinosaur’s name mean? What two reasons does the author give for why the dinosaur was given this name?

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.8

Answers

- 1** The dinosaur usually dies close to or in water and becomes buried by mud or sand; over time, the soft parts of its body disappear and only the hard parts, like bones, are left; as the skeleton gets buried deeper, minerals from the mud get into the bones and the mud turns into rock; finally, the skeleton also hardens, which creates the fossil.
- 2** 1861; The gigantic Argentinosaurus was named, the largest dinosaur ever discovered; timeline.
- 3** Mongolia; Giganotosaurus
- 4** The bones were smaller than expected; there was not much food on their small island so they did not grow as big.
- 5** 1842; large lizards
- 6** The size of a turkey; yes, it was more proof that birds and dinosaurs are part of the same family.
- 7** Some of the dinosaur's bones were missing; two more skeletons were found.
- 8** Giant giraffe; it was twice the height of a giraffe and, like a giraffe, used its long neck to eat leaves from treetops.