

Year 5

When Reptiles Ruled 1

Vocabulary 2a

The Age of Reptiles may have been one of the most incredible periods in Earth's history. Most scientists believe that the Age of Reptiles began about 225 million years ago and lasted for more than 160 million years. This was millions of years before the earliest humans were on Earth.

Dinosaurs dominated the Age of Reptiles. The word "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard". There were plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs that roamed the Earth. Both of these groups included dinosaurs in many different sizes and shapes.

Some plant-eaters were enormous. They weighed up to 180,000 pounds and grew to lengths of 80 feet or more. These giants had tiny heads and even tinier brains, which weighed less than a chicken egg. A plant-eating dinosaur's head was perched 40 feet above the ground on a long, snake-like neck. Scientists think that it would have taken at least a ton of green leaves a day to keep each of these giant creatures alive.

Plant-eating dinosaurs spent most of their time in the mud and water of lakes and rivers, where they fed on soft plants. Their nostrils were located on the top part of their tiny heads, which made it easy for the dinosaurs to breathe while they moved around in deep water. A few large, plant-eating dinosaurs walked upright. These creatures balanced themselves with their heavy tails as they walked.

One type of plant-eating dinosaur that walked upright was the "duck-billed" dinosaur. This creature got its name because its face was drawn out into a wide, flat beak, which looked very much like a duck's bill. A duck-billed dinosaur had a strange-looking crest of bone on its head. This made it look as though it were wearing a helmet. No one really knows what purpose the bony crest served, but some people think it may have been part of a giant nose that could sense approaching danger. The duck-billed dinosaur was a good swimmer. When it sensed danger, which often was a fierce meat-eating dinosaur, the duck-billed dinosaur dived into deep lake or river waters. Meat-eating hunters could not follow the plant-eating dinosaur into the water.

Questions

- 1 'The Age of Reptiles may have been one of the most incredible **periods** in Earth's history.'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**periods**'?

Tick **one**.

events

sights

eras

spaces

- 2 Look at the second paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'wandered'.

- 3 Look at the third paragraph.

Find and **copy a phrase (group of words)** that shows how light the plant-eating dinosaurs' brains were.

- 4 Look at paragraph 3. Some plant-eating dinosaurs were...

Tick **two**.

light

minuscule

towering

vast

5 Underline **one** word in the quotation below that means '**situated**'.

'Their nostrils were located on the top part of their tiny heads, which made it easy for the dinosaurs to breathe while they moved around in deep water.'

6 Look at the last paragraph which starts with '*One type of plant-eating dinosaur that walked upright...*'

Find and **copy a phrase (group of words)** that is closest in meaning to 'being able to recognise risks and threats'.

7 Look at the quote from the second paragraph: '*Dinosaurs **dominated** the Age of Reptiles.*'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**dominated**'?

Tick **one**.

raided

ruined

ruled

restored

8 Look at the last paragraph at how the word 'served' is used:

*'No one really knows what purpose the bony crest **served**, but some people think it may have been part of a giant nose that could sense approaching danger.'*

a) What does the word '**served**' mean when it is used in the last paragraph?

b) What is another meaning of the word '**served**'?

Answers

1 'The Age of Reptiles may have been one of the most incredible **periods** in Earth's history.'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**periods**'?

Tick **one**.

events

sights

eras

spaces

2 Look at the second paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'wandered'.

Roamed.

3 Look at the third paragraph.

Find and **copy a phrase (group of words)** that shows how light the plant-eating dinosaurs' brains were.

Weighed less than a chicken egg.

4 Look at paragraph 3. Some plant-eating dinosaurs were...

Tick **two**.

light

minuscule

towering

vast

5 Underline **one** word in the quotation below that means ‘**situated**’.

*‘Their nostrils were **located** on the top part of their tiny heads, which made it easy for the dinosaurs to breathe while they moved around in deep water.’*

6 Look at the last paragraph which starts with ‘*One type of plant-eating dinosaur that walked upright...*’

Find and **copy a phrase (group of words)** that is closest in meaning to ‘being able to recognise risks and threats’.

(That could) sense approaching danger.

7 Look at the quote from the second paragraph: ‘*Dinosaurs **dominated** the Age of Reptiles.*’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘**dominated**’?

Tick **one**.

raided

ruined



ruled

restored

8 Look at the last paragraph at how the word ‘served’ is used:

*‘No one really knows what purpose the bony crest **served**, but some people think it may have been part of a giant nose that could sense approaching danger.’*

a) What does the word ‘**served**’ mean when it is used in the last paragraph?

Helped with/achieved/accomplished. What the bony crest did. What it was used for (or any similar explanation).

b) What is another meaning of the word ‘**served**’?

Served as in being served your meal in a restaurant/giving out something/serve up food/being presented with (or any similar explanation).

Served as in served time in the army/worked for/provided a service (or any similar explanation).