

Year 5

When Reptiles Ruled 1

Retrieval 2b

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 Look in paragraph 2. What **dominated** the Age of Reptiles?

2 Look in the second paragraph.

Find **two** physical features that describe what the plant-eaters **looked** like.

1. A tiny _____

2. An even _____

3 Complete the table below with facts from the extract from the first paragraph below:

'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.'

When the Age of Reptiles began:	
How long the Age of Reptiles lasted:	

4 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

'Dinosaurs dominated the Age of Reptiles. The word "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard". There were plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs that roamed the Earth.'

Which **two** types of dinosaurs lived during the Age of Reptiles?

1. _____

2. _____

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

'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) Plant-eating dinosaurs...

had no
nostrils

ate hard
plants

hated
water

found it easy to
breathe in deep water

'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.'

(b) Duck-billed dinosaurs...

could
not dive

were hunted by
meat-eaters

were
fierce

could not
swim

6 Look at the extract below:

'A few large, plant-eating dinosaurs walked upright. These creatures balanced themselves with their heavy tails as they walked.'

What **part** of the plant-eating dinosaur's **body** was used to help it walk without falling?

7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1–3 to show the order in which you **first** read about them.

scientists

the Age of Reptiles

terrible lizard

8 Using information below, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

'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.'

	True	False
'Dinosaur' means 'bad reptile'.		
There were two groups of dinosaurs.		

Answers

1 Look in paragraph 2. What **dominated** the Age of Reptiles?

Dinosaurs.

2 Look in the second paragraph.

Find **two** physical features that describe what the plant-eaters **looked** like.

1. A tiny **head**.

2. An even **tinier brain**.

3 Complete the table below with facts from the extract from the first paragraph below:

'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.'

When the Age of Reptiles began:	225 million years ago
How long the Age of Reptiles lasted:	160 million years

4 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

'Dinosaurs dominated the Age of Reptiles. The word "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard". There were plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs that roamed the Earth.'

Which **two** types of dinosaurs lived during the Age of Reptiles?

Plant-eaters/plant-eating dinosaurs.

Meat-eaters/meat-eating dinosaurs.

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

'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) Plant-eating dinosaurs...

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(b) Duck-billed dinosaurs...

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meat-eaters

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6 Look at the extract below:

'A few large, plant-eating dinosaurs walked upright. These creatures balanced themselves with their heavy tails as they walked.'

What **part** of the plant-eating dinosaur's **body** was used to help it walk without falling?

(Their heavy) tails.

7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1–3 to show the order in which you **first** read about them.


2 scientists

1 the Age of Reptiles

3 terrible lizard

8 Using information below, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

'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.'

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