

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**.

sights

eras

spaces

2 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

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

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

3 Look at the quote below:

'These giants had tiny heads and even tinier brains, which weighed less than a chicken egg.'

Find and **copy one word** that shows that the brains were one of the smallest parts of the dinosaur.

4 Look at the quote from paragraph 3:

'Some plant-eaters were enormous. They weighed up to 180,000 pounds and grew to lengths of 80 feet or more.'

Some plant-eating dinosaurs were...

Tick **two**.

minuscule

towering

huge

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

'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 extract from the last paragraph:

'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.'

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to 'a risk or threat'.

- 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

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**.

sights

eras

spaces

2 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

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

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

Roamed.

3 Look at the quote below:

'These giants had tiny heads and even tinier brains, which weighed less than a chicken egg.'

Find and **copy one word** that shows that the brains were one of the smallest parts of the dinosaur.

Tinier.

4 Look at the quote from paragraph 3:

'Some plant-eaters were enormous. They weighed up to 180,000 pounds and grew to lengths of 80 feet or more.'

Some plant-eating dinosaurs were...

Tick **two**.

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

‘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 extract from the last paragraph:

‘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.’

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to ‘a risk or threat’.

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.