

Year 5

When Reptiles Ruled 3

Vocabulary 2a

The creatures of the Age of Reptiles lived in a world that was far different from ours. For one thing, the climate was very different. About 200 million years ago, it was warm and humid all over Earth. Oceans, inland seas, lakes, rivers and streams were bordered with thick, green jungles and hot, humid lowlands and swamps. Everywhere in this ancient world, reptiles large and small roamed the land, swam the seas and flew through the air.

Then, about 65 to 70 million years ago, the great Age of Reptiles came to an end. In a relatively short time, all the giant plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs disappeared forever. A few kinds of reptiles, such as turtles and lizards, survived to the present day. What happened to the creatures that had dominated the Earth for so many millions of years? Scientists can only guess. Perhaps climate change had something to do with it. The warm, humid weather of the Age of Reptiles slowly turned cooler and, in some places, much colder. The hot, humid lowlands dried out. The lakes, rivers and marshes grew smaller and smaller. In time, the huge plant-eating beasts simply ran out of food and began to die. As the plant-eaters died, the meat-eaters lost their food source. The meat-eating dinosaurs could not survive by catching and eating small reptiles, so the fierce meat-eaters began to die too. When their surroundings began to change, dinosaurs were unable to change along with them. They could not adapt to the new climate.

Towards the end of the Age of Reptiles, a new kind of animal, the mammal, appeared on Earth. These warm-blooded animals were tiny, furry creatures about the size of today's mice and rats. Some scientists believe that these small mammals ate dinosaur eggs. Mammals were too small to be seriously hunted by giant, meat-eating dinosaurs, so the tiny mammals quickly grew in number. These mammals had two important advantages over the reptiles. First, they had better brains. Second, and perhaps even more important, they were warm-blooded. This meant that their internal body temperature stayed the same no matter what the outside air temperature measured. The cold-blooded reptiles had to rely on the warmth of outside air to keep their own bodies warm. As the air temperature grew cooler towards the end of the Age of Reptiles, the body temperature of mammals remained constant. The cold air did not bother mammals, but it did cause reptiles' body temperature to drop. As a reptile's body temperature drops, the creature moves more and more slowly. A cold reptile is unable to hunt for food or protect itself as well as when it is warm.

The great Age of Reptiles came to an end and the Age of Mammals began. It is hard to believe that giant sea reptiles or 180,000-pound dinosaurs once walked the Earth. But we can see proof of their existence in natural history museums. Skeletons, teeth, footprints and other remains of these ancient creatures are on display for everyone to see.

Questions

- 1 'The creatures of the Age of Reptiles lived in a world that was far different from ours. For one thing, the **climate** was very different.'

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

Tick **one**.

environment

landscape

era

weather

- 2 Look at the first paragraph.

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

- 3 Look at the third paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** which means 'benefits'.

- 4 Look at paragraph two. During the Age of Reptiles...

Tick **two**.

temperatures rose

lake sizes decreased

temperatures fell

lake sizes increased

- 5 Underline a **phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that shows that tiny mammals had a consistent body temperature.

'Second, and perhaps even more important, they were warm-blooded. This meant that their internal body temperature stayed the same no matter what the outside air temperature measured.'

- 6 Look at the third paragraph which starts with *'Towards the end of the Age of Reptiles, a new kind of animal, the mammal, appeared on Earth...'*

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'inner' or 'inside'.

- 7 *'It is hard to believe that giant sea reptiles or 180,000-pound dinosaurs once walked the Earth. But we can see **proof** of their existence in natural history museums.'*

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

Tick **one**.

predictions

evidence

examples

ideas

- 8 Look at the third paragraph at how the word 'drop' is used:

*'As the air temperature grew cooler towards the end of the Age of Reptiles, the body temperature of mammals remained constant. The cold air did not bother mammals, but it did cause reptiles' body temperature to **drop**.'*

- a) What does the word '**drop**' mean when it is used in the third paragraph?
-

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

Answers

- 1 'The creatures of the Age of Reptiles lived in a world that was far different from ours. For one thing, the **climate** was very different.'

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

Tick **one**.

environment

landscape

era

weather

- 2 Look at the first paragraph.

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

Bordered.

- 3 Look at the third paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** which means 'benefits'.

Advantages.

- 4 Look at paragraph two. During the Age of Reptiles...

Tick **two**.

temperatures rose

lake sizes decreased

temperature fell

lake sizes increased

- 5 Underline a **phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that shows that tiny mammals had a consistent body temperature.

'Second, and perhaps even more important, they were warm-blooded. This meant that their internal body temperature stayed the same no matter what the outside air temperature measured.'

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Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'inner' or 'inside'.

Internal.

- 7 *'It is hard to believe that giant sea reptiles or 180,000-pound dinosaurs once walked the Earth. But we can see **proof** of their existence in natural history museums.'*

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

Tick **one**.

predictions



evidence

examples

ideas

- 8 Look at the third paragraph at how the word 'drop' is used:

*'As the air temperature grew cooler towards the end of the Age of Reptiles, the body temperature of mammals remained constant. The cold air did not bother mammals, but it did cause reptiles' body temperature to **drop**.'*

- a) What does the word '**drop**' mean when it is used in the third paragraph?

It means reptiles' body temperature fell/got colder/got cooler/temperatures reduced or decreased.

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

An answer linked to rain/liquid such as: a raindrop/droplet/a teardrop/water in the shape of a droplet.

An answer linked to dropping an item such as: losing your grip of something/letting something fall/releasing something being held/letting or making something fall.

An answer linked to dropping to the floor such as: to collapse/going down to the floor/falling to the floor.

An answer linked to letting something go such as: she dropped her friend because she was mean.

An answer linked to sweets: a pear drop sweet/a small round sweet/a lozenge/a pastille.