

Year 5

When Reptiles Ruled 2

Vocabulary 2a

Many dinosaurs were meat-eaters. These creatures stood as tall as a house and walked upright on their hind legs. Meat-eaters had huge, dagger-like teeth. Dinosaurs' bodies often had parts that served as natural weapons or protection. For example, there was one type of dinosaur that had three horns on its head. One of the horns grew above the dinosaur's nose and there was a three-foot horn above each eye. This kind of dinosaur also had a thick plate of bone growing on the back of its head. The bone plate, which fanned around the dinosaur's head, looked very much like a giant collar. It protected the dinosaur's neck from the sharp teeth of other dinosaurs.

These three-horned dinosaurs walked on four legs and were about six feet high and 30 feet long. Charging at its prey on thick, strong legs, a three-horned dinosaur had as much power as an army tank.

Some dinosaurs were giants, but there were some dinosaurs that were very small. These little creatures fed on insects and other small reptiles. Small dinosaurs could easily get out of the way of the giant, meat-eating dinosaurs. Most dinosaurs tried to avoid the especially dangerous "curved lizard" dinosaur. This type of dinosaur, named for its curved ribs, had a wide, flat body that was low to the ground. Curved lizard dinosaurs were protected by a covering of thick, bony plates that were edged with long spikes. At the tip of a curved lizard dinosaur's tail was a heavy knot of bone, which the creature could swing like a club.

During the Age of Reptiles, there were winged reptiles that soared through the air. One such creature had a piece of leathery skin that stretched from its front legs to its back claws. This reptile would lift this skin to catch a wind current and then soar into the sky, much like a kite. Another type of winged reptile had a beak and feathers similar to a modern bird, but it also had sharp teeth more commonly found in reptiles.

Many reptiles inhabited the ancient seas. One sea-going reptile swam through the water by rowing its broad, flat body with its strong, paddle-like legs. As it moved forward, it could also dart its tooth-filled head and long, thin neck 20 feet in any direction. This is how it fed on floating water plants. There was also a sea turtle that was much like today's turtles. However, there was one big difference between the ancient sea turtle and modern turtles. The ancient sea turtle was as large as a car.

Questions

- 1 'Many dinosaurs were meat-eaters. These creatures stood as tall as a house and walked upright on their **hind** legs.'

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

Tick **one**.

strong

four

front

back

- 2 Look at the first paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'safeguard' or 'kept safe'.

- 3 Look at the second paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** which means 'storming' or 'stampeding'.

- 4 Look at paragraph three. The 'curved lizard' dinosaur was...

Tick **two**.

friendly

perilous

tall

short

- 5 Underline a **phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that suggests that some of the creatures could fly rapidly.

'During the Age of Reptiles, there were winged reptiles that soared through the air. One such creature had a piece of leathery skin that stretched from its front legs to its back claws.'

- 6 Look at the fourth paragraph which starts with '*During the Age of Reptiles...*'

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

- 7 '*Many reptiles **inhabited** the ancient seas.*'

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

Tick **one**.

ruled in

swam in

lived in

bathed in

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

'As it moved forward, it could also dart its tooth-filled head and long, thin neck 20 feet in any direction.'

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

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

Answers

- 1 'Many dinosaurs were meat-eaters. These creatures stood as tall as a house and walked upright on their **hind** legs.'

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

Tick **one**.

strong

four

front

back

- 2 Look at the first paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'safeguard' or 'kept safe'.

Protected (also accept 'protection').

- 3 Look at the second paragraph.

Find and **copy one word** which means 'storming' or 'stampeding'.

Charging.

- 4 Look at paragraph three. The 'curved lizard' dinosaur was...

Tick **two**.

friendly

perilous

tall

short

- 5 Underline a **phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that suggests that some of the creatures could fly rapidly.

'During the Age of Reptiles, there were winged reptiles that soared through the air. One such creature had a piece of leathery skin that stretched from its front legs to its back claws.'

- 6 Look at the fourth paragraph which starts with '*During the Age of Reptiles...*'

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

Commonly.

- 7 '*Many reptiles **inhabited** the ancient seas.*'

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

Tick **one**.

ruled in

swam in

lived in

bathed in

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

'As it moved forward, it could also dart its tooth-filled head and long, thin neck 20 feet in any direction.'

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

Move quickly, shoot out, fire out, projectile, stretch out, extend quickly (or any other similar explanation).

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

A pointed arrow, an arrow, a type of equipment used in the game darts, an arrow you throw at a dartboard (or any other similar explanation).