

Reading Comprehension - Dinosaurs

Read each paragraph then cover the paragraph with another sheet of paper and answer the questions.

Iguanodon, or "iguana tooth" was a large plant eater who was 30 feet long and stood 6 feet tall when on his hind legs. This dinosaur from the Early Cretaceous period had large thumb spikes, thought to be used for defense or possibly to pull branches off trees. Iguanodon could walk on its hind feet or on all fours and was a very good swimmer.

1. Iguanodon lived during the _____ period.
2. The name Iguanodon means (circle one) iguana lizard, iguana tooth, iguana head
3. Iguanodon liked to eat (circle one) other dinosaurs, fish, plants

This giant of a dinosaur, Brachiosaurus, grew to an amazing 82 feet long and 43 feet high! The front legs of this dinosaur grew to 6 1/2 feet, hence the nickname of "arm lizard". Brachiosaurus probably spent most of his time on land eating plants.

1. Brachiosaurus is nicknamed _____.
2. Brachiosaurus had 6 1/2 foot long (circle one) hind legs, front legs, tail
3. Brachiosaurus liked to eat (circle one) plants, fish, meat

Ankylosaurus was a rather small, stocky dinosaur who lived during the Cretaceous period. It would have been difficult for a carnivore to attack an ankylosaurus due to the solid layer of bony ridges running down his back. With its small teeth and weak jaws, an ankylosaurus feasted on soft leafy plants.

1. Ankylosaurus lived during the _____ period.
2. The best defense an ankylosaurus had against meat eating dinosaurs was (circle one) speed, bony plates, strong teeth
3. Ankylosaurus liked to eat (circle one) other dinosaurs, fish, plants

Look up the following words and write a short definition on the line.

1. **extinct** _____
2. **paleontologist** _____
3. **reptile** _____

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Look up the following words and write a short definition on the line.

1. **extinct** no longer existing
2. **paleontologist** person that studies dinosaur bones
3. **reptile** a cold-blooded animal with a backbone