

## Huge 'Mission Jurassic' dinosaur dig to start

7th April, 2019



This year will see one of the world's biggest ever dinosaur digs. Paleontologists from across the globe will go to a special site in the U.S. state of Wyoming to join the dig. A paleontologist is someone who studies fossils. The dig is called Mission Jurassic. Researchers from the USA, England and Holland will join the Mission Jurassic team. They will try to find bones from dinosaurs that lived in the area 150 million years ago, in the Jurassic Era. The site of the dig is known as the Jurassic Mile. It is roughly 2.6 square kilometers in size. Scientists have already uncovered many interesting things over the past two years. These include dinosaur footprints, plant fossils and the bones of a 30-metre-long Diplodocus.

The bones found at the dig will go on display in Indianapolis - at the world's largest children's museum. Professor Paul Barrett, a researcher at the museum and a co-leader of the dig, said: "This is an area that hasn't been...extensively studied....The hope is to find new material of previously described species and, if we're lucky, new species of dinosaurs and the animals and plants that lived around them." Another museum professor, Richard Herrington, said: "This site offers a rare opportunity to build a picture of what the real Jurassic ecosystem would have looked like 150 million years ago." He hopes to find fossils, "from plants and invertebrates to ancient crocodiles, mammals, lizards and marine life".

Sources: [nhm.ac.uk](http://nhm.ac.uk) / [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

## Writing

It is important to find out more about dinosaurs. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dinosaur / dig / state / fossils / mission / Jurassic / 150 million years ago / footprints / museum / researcher / lucky / professor / ecosystem / crocodiles / mammals / lizards

## True / False

- a) The world's biggest ever dinosaur dig will take place this year. T / F
- b) A paleontologist is someone who studies chickens and ducks. T / F
- c) The Jurassic Era was 150,000,000 years ago. T / F
- d) Scientists found a 30-metre-long Diplodocus bone. T / F
- e) The bones found at the dig will go in London's Natural History Museum. T / F
- f) The area of the dig has not been really studied so much. T / F
- g) Researchers hope to find a new species of dinosaur. T / F
- h) Researchers hope to find ancient crocodiles. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>globe</b>       | a. unearthed |
| 2. <b>site</b>        | b. sea       |
| 3. <b>find</b>        | c. about     |
| 4. <b>roughly</b>     | d. location  |
| 5. <b>uncovered</b>   | e. a lot     |
| 6. <b>display</b>     | f. fortunate |
| 7. <b>extensively</b> | g. world     |
| 8. <b>lucky</b>       | h. chance    |
| 9. <b>opportunity</b> | i. show      |
| 10. <b>marine</b>     | j. discover  |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of dinosaur exhibitions?
- c) How exciting is it to find a new kind of dinosaur?
- d) What do you think of the Jurassic Park movies?
- e) What will the earth be like in 150 million years from now?
- f) Should we study paleontology at school?
- g) Was the world better in the time of the dinosaurs?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a paleontologist?

## Phrase Match

1. Paleontologists from across
  2. dinosaurs that lived in the area
  3. It is roughly 2.6 square
  4. dinosaur
  5. the bones of a 30-metre-
  6. go on
  7. new species
  8. This site offers a rare
  9. the real Jurassic
  10. marine
- a. opportunity
  - b. long Diplodocus
  - c. display
  - d. ecosystem
  - e. kilometers in size
  - f. life
  - g. footprints
  - h. of dinosaurs
  - i. the globe
  - j. 150 million years ago

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of dinosaurs?
- b) Why is it important we study dinosaurs?
- c) What do you think of the job of a paleontologist?
- d) How did the dinosaurs die out?
- e) What is your favorite dinosaur?
- f) Would you like to join the dig?
- g) What was life like 150 million years ago?
- h) Should scientists use DNA to bring dinosaurs back?

## Spelling

1. from across the loebg
2. 150 omiilln years ago
3. It is rolhgyu 2.6 square kilometers
4. cevenourd many interesting things
5. dinosaur ftsnpotori
6. plant slfsois
7. go on apdysli
8. the world's largest children's meumsu
9. new scpseie of dinosaurs
10. the real Jurassic comesyets
11. nncieta crocodiles
12. inearm life

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. c	5. a
6. i	7. e	8. f	9. h	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Dinosaurs

You think dinosaurs are the best species to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): lizards, eagles or squid.

### Role B – Lizards

You think lizards are the best species to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): dinosaurs, eagles or squid.

### Role C – Eagles

You think eagles are the best species to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): lizards, dinosaurs or squid.

### Role D – Squid

You think squid are the best species to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): lizards, eagles or dinosaurs.

## Speaking – Species

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting species to study at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- eagles
- squid
- mammals
- crocodiles
- dinosaurs
- sharks
- lizards
- spiders

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.