

Bus-sized crocodiles once roamed the Earth

13th August, 2020



Gigantic "terror crocodiles" that were as large as buses once roamed the Earth. This terrifying picture comes from a study that was published this week in the "Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology". The study is from

universities in the USA. Researchers who are experts in paleontology - the study of dinosaurs - studied ancient bones found in North America. They said that the dinosaurs lived along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of what is now Canada and the USA. The giant beasts preyed on other dinosaurs and were up to ten metres in length. The researchers discovered that the prehistoric crocodiles had razor-sharp teeth that were the size of large bananas.

Co-author of the study Dr Adam Cossette gave details of how he thought the crocodiles lived. He said they lived between 75 and 82 million years ago and are the ancestors of today's crocodiles and alligators. He wrote about his research on the bone parts he studied. He said: "Until now, the complete animal was unknown. These new specimens we've examined reveal a bizarre, monstrous predator with teeth the size of bananas." He added that it was, "a giant that must have terrorised other dinosaurs that came to the water's edge to drink." Another co-author of the study described how scary the beast was. She wrote: "It was so enormous, almost everything in its habitat was on the menu."

Sources: cnn.com / eurakalert.com / phys.org

Writing

Scientists should use DNA to re-create some dinosaurs. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

gigantic / terror / crocodiles / paleontology / dinosaurs / Pacific / Atlantic / bananas / study / ancestors / research / animal / predator / teeth / drink / habitat / menu

True / False

- a) The article said there is a very old picture of giant crocodiles. T / F
- b) The study was conducted by universities in Brazil. T / F
- c) The giant crocodiles lived only along the Pacific coast of N. America. T / F
- d) The crocodiles had teeth the size of large bananas. T / F
- e) The crocodiles roamed the Earth around 80 million years ago. T / F
- f) Paleontologists studied old bone parts. T / F
- g) Other dinosaurs terrorised the giant crocodile when it drank. T / F
- h) The giant crocodiles ate pretty much anything that was there. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. gigantic | a. prehistoric |
| 2. terrifying | b. found |
| 3. ancient | c. strange |
| 4. experts | d. scary |
| 5. discovered | e. information |
| 6. details | f. environment |
| 7. complete | g. huge |
| 8. bizarre | h. explained |
| 9. described | i. specialists |
| 10. habitat | j. whole |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about crocodiles?
- b) What do you think of the idea of bus-sized crocodiles?
- c) How much are crocodiles like dinosaurs?
- d) How interested are you in dinosaurs?
- e) What would you like to be an expert in?
- f) What would you do if you saw a crocodile?
- g) What is your favourite dinosaur?
- h) How important is it for humans to study dinosaurs?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Gigantic "terror crocodiles" that were | a. on other dinosaurs |
| 2. Researchers who are experts | b. of today's crocodiles |
| 3. The giant beasts preyed | c. sharp teeth |
| 4. prehistoric | d. to drink |
| 5. razor- | e. menu |
| 6. the ancestors | f. in paleontology |
| 7. a bizarre, monstrous | g. the beast was |
| 8. came to the water's edge | h. as large as buses |
| 9. described how scary | i. predator |
| 10. on the | j. crocodiles |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of crocodiles?
- What was life on Earth like 75 million years ago?
- What was your neighbourhood like 75 million years ago?
- What would you do if you saw a bus-sized crocodile?
- Why did the dinosaurs die out?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask the paleontologists?

Spelling

- tianigcg "terror crocodiles"
- This nriitfyegr picture
- studied tianenc bones
- The giant beasts yerdep on other dinosaurs
- ipthsrceori crocodiles
- zrora-sharp teeth
- the csrneosta of today's crocodiles
- These new epncseism we've examined
- a erzabri, monstrous predator
- came to the water's geed to drink
- It was so eomunsro
- almost everything in its abtiath

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Dinosaurs

You think being an expert on dinosaurs is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coding, music or child care.

Role B – Coding

You think being an expert on coding is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): dinosaurs, music or child care.

Role C – Music

You think being an expert on music is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coding, dinosaurs or child care.

Role D – Child Care

You think being an expert on child care is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coding, music or dinosaurs.

Speaking – Expert

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to be an expert in at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| • Dinosaurs | • Physics |
| • Cooking | • Gaming |
| • Coding | • The history of music |
| • Child care | • World politics |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | F | d | T | e | T | f | T | g | F | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.