The H.O.T. Spot

By Jason S. McIntosh, Ph.D.

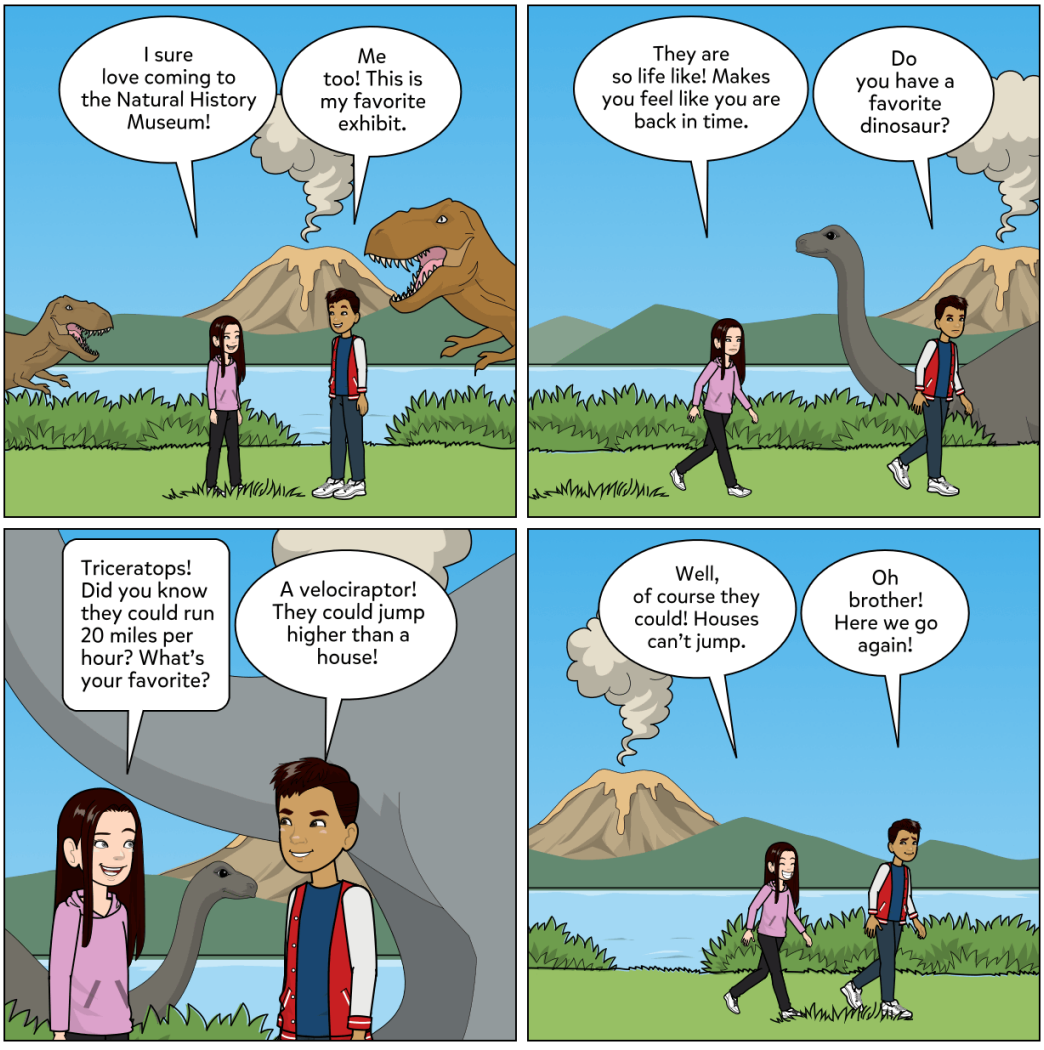
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #4 (April 29, 2020)

CAUTION: Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:

When Dinosaurs Roamed the Earth



When Dinosaurs Roamed the Earth

Did You Know?

Dinosaur fossils have been found on all seven continents. Over 700 known species of dinosaurs have been discovered. The word 'dinosaur' means 'terrible-lizard' in Greek. Although many species of dinosaurs were very large, their brains were not. The brain of a newborn baby human is larger than most adult dinosaur brains.

Help Wanted

A person who studies dinosaurs is called a paleontologist.

Education

- At least a bachelor's degree in biology or geology
- Advanced degree preferred

Necessary Skills

- Logical and critical thinking
- Ability to manage a team
- Endurance

Typical Duties

- Plan, direct, and conduct field work
- Preserve and study fossils in the laboratory
- Write journal articles and present to peers

Virtual Field Trip

Take a tour of the 3D dinosaur exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History:

https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour

Would You Rather

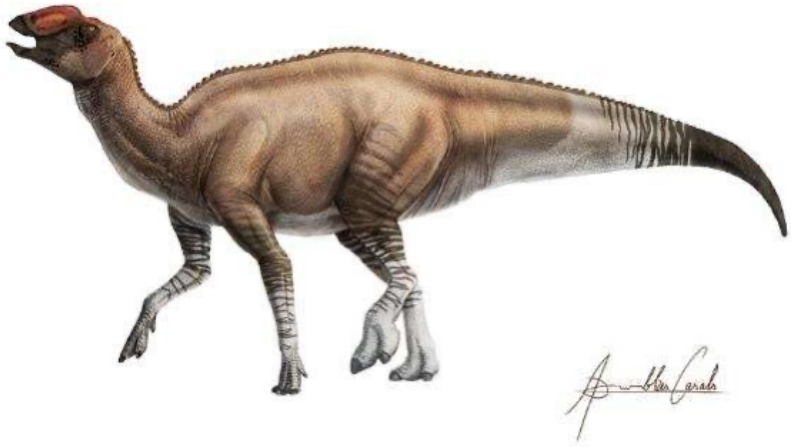
Have a stegosaurus or an apatosaurus as a pet?

Bio-Profile

One of the most famous paleontologists of all time is Barnum Brown (1873-1963). He is known for being the first person to discover a T-Rex, as well as choosing to use dynamite to quickly uncover fossils instead of the traditional pickax method. Can you imagine how many fossils he accidentally destroyed while doing this?

Mystery Picture of the Week

Can you guess what species of dinosaur is pictured below? After doing your research, turn your paper upside down to check your answer.



ANSWER: This is a hadrosaur dinosaur, otherwise known as duck-billed dinosaur. They were herbivores, laid eggs, and lived 85 million years ago.

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What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

Project-Based Bonanza

Choose one or more of the projects below to complete this week.

CHOICE A

Design a zoo exhibit for your favorite dinosaur.

- What would it look like?
- How big would it need to be?
- What type of food would you need to provide?
- What would you make the barriers out of?

CHOICE B

The dinosaur family tree has three main branches: *theropods*, *saurischians*, and *ornithischians*. Poll your friends or family members and create a list of their favorite dinosaurs. Next, figure out which branch each dinosaur species on the list belongs. Create a chart and send it to those you surveyed.

CHOICE C

Put these paleontologists in order by birthdate, then research the contributions of each:

- Jack Horner
- Mary Anning
- Robert Bakker
- Dong Zhiming
- Othniel C. Marsh
- Paul Sereno
- Patricia Vickers-Rich

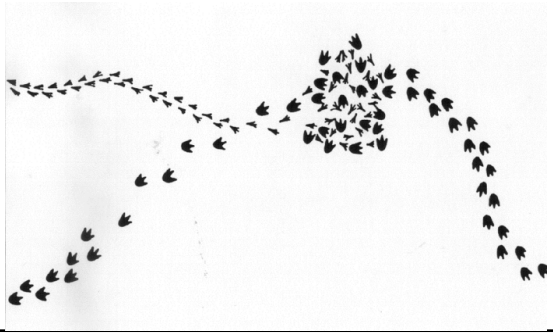
Cliff Hangers

I've created a Mad Lib.You fill in the blanks!

While hunting for fossils in _____, the paleontologist discovered the _____ of what they thought was a _____. This specimen was different however, for it was _____. After a little research, it was determined to be an entirely new species never before recorded. Granted naming rights, the paleontologist decided to call it the _____asaurus. When it was alive it would have been _____ feet long and weighed over _____ pounds. The coolest thing about it was it could _____.

Brain Teaser of the Week

Look at these dino footprints.What happened?



Digging Into Depth and Complexity

If you recall, we learned about the Kaplan Depth and Complexity Model icon *unanswered questions* while studying Egypt. Another very important icon is **ethics**.



The ethics icon stands for right or wrong, pros and cons, the moral of the story, or controversies and arguments. Think about the ethics icon while reading the scenario below.

Imagine you stumbled across a dinosaur bone while on a walk in a national park. What would you do? What are the pros and cons of keeping it versus reporting it?

**Interesting Fact*- It is illegal to collect fossils or artifacts on federal lands such as national parks, monuments, or forests. You can go to jail or be fined a significant amount of money for doing so.

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