

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina

Recently, the biggest ever dinosaur was discovered in Argentina. The fossilised bones of the dinosaur, believed to be the largest creature ever to have walked the earth, were unearthed in Argentina.

Palaeontologists said, estimated on its huge thigh bone, it was 40m (130ft) long and 20m (65ft) tall. Weighing in at 77 tonnes, it was as heavy as 14 African elephants. That makes it seven tonnes heavier than the previous record holder, *Argentinosaurus*, which itself is bigger than a *Tyrannosaurus rex*!

Palaeontologists think it is a new species of titanosaur – part of a diverse group of sauropod dinosaurs that were characterised by their long necks and tails and small heads – dating from the Cretaceous period.

The new dinosaur was discovered by a farm worker in the desert near La Flecha, which is about 250km (135 miles) west of Trelew, Patagonia in Argentina.

Researcher Dr Diego Pol said, "Given the size of these bones, which surpass any of the previously known giant animals, the new dinosaur is the largest animal known that walked the earth."

So far, researchers have excavated the fossils and found seven partial skeletons, amounting to around 150 bones. All are said to be in 'remarkable condition'. The new creature, which lived in the forests of Patagonia 95-100 million years ago, has yet to be named. Researchers said, "It will be named describing its magnificence and in honour to both the region and the farm owners who alerted us about the discovery."

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about dinosaurs. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Which country is discussed?
- 2) Where was this new dinosaur discovered?
- 3) How big is this new dinosaur?
- 4) What is a palaeontologist?
- 5) Name the other dinosaurs.

Student B questions

- 1) How many years ago did this new dinosaur roam the earth?
- 2) What is the name of the new dinosaur?
- 3) Name the researcher.
- 4) Describe the new dinosaur.
- 5) So far, what have researchers found?

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina - 30th May 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Dinosaurs**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING / DRAWING

In pairs – Think of three dinosaurs you know. Write them below. Draw them! Google them! Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What do you know about them? Where did they live? What did they eat?

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – On the board list five dinosaur movies. What dinosaurs are in them? Talk about the movies and the dinosaurs! *5 mins.*

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever seen a huge dinosaur skeleton? If yes, where.
- 3) Do you like to watch dinosaur documentaries?
- 4) Can you name any films or TV programmes with dinosaurs in them?
- 5) Why did the dinosaurs die out?
- 6) Would you like to meet a dinosaur?
- 7) What does this new dinosaur find in Argentina tell us?
- 8) Would you like to go on a dinosaur dig?
- 9) Should man be digging up dinosaur fossils? Explain.
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the NBC News studio in New York. Today's interview is: *Biggest ever dinosaur discovered. 10 mins. mins.*

- 1) A paleontologist.
- 2) A journalist.
- 3) A photographer.
- 4) The farm worker who discovered the new dinosaur.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a news reporter for the BBC. *Student B* is a palaeontologist who has been involved with the dig to excavate the fossils. *Student A* describes the dig in Argentina then interviews *student B* (Imagine!) *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina
(Google it!)

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What name would you give to the new dinosaur that has been discovered?
- 3) Why did sauropods have small heads, long necks and long tails?
- 4) Do you think man could recreate the dinosaurs using DNA?
- 5) How do you think the researchers feel about finding this new dinosaur?
- 6) When did you first hear about this new dinosaur?
- 7) Why is this new dinosaur find exciting for palaeontologists?
- 8) What are the chances of discovering any other new dinosaur species?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina

Recently, the biggest ever dinosaur was discovered in Argentina. The fossilised (1)___ of the (2)___, believed to be the largest (3)___ ever to have walked the earth, were unearthed in Argentina.

Palaeontologists said, estimated on its huge (4)___ bone, it was 40m (130ft) long and 20m (65ft) tall. Weighing in at 77 tonnes, it was as (5)___ as 14 African elephants. That makes it seven tonnes heavier than the previous record holder, *Argentinosaurus*, which itself is bigger than a *Tyrannosaurus rex*!

Palaeontologists think it is a new (6)___ of titanosaur – part of a (7)___ group of (8)___ dinosaurs that were characterised by their long necks and tails and small heads – dating from the Cretaceous period.

creature / sauropod / dinosaur / species / heavy / diverse / thigh / bones

The new dinosaur was discovered by a farm worker in the desert near La Flecha, which is about 250km (135 miles) west of Trelew, Patagonia in Argentina.

(1)___ Dr Diego Pol said, "Given the (2)___ of these bones, which (3)___ any of the previously known giant animals, the new dinosaur is the largest animal known that walked the earth."

So far, researchers have excavated the (4)___ and found seven partial (5)___, amounting to around 150 bones. All are said to be in '(6)___ condition'. The new creature, which lived in the forests of Patagonia 95-100 million years ago, has yet to be named.

Researchers said, "It will be named describing its (7)___ and in (8)___ to both the region and the farm owners who alerted us about the discovery."

fossils / magnificence / surpass / researcher / honour / size / skeletons / remarkable

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina

Recently, the biggest ever dinosaur was discovered in Argentina. The fossilised bones of the dinosaur, believed to be the largest creature (1)___ to have walked the earth, were unearthed in Argentina.

Palaeontologists said, estimated (2)___ its huge thigh bone, it was 40m (130ft) long and 20m (65ft) tall. Weighing in at 77 tonnes, it was as heavy as 14 African elephants. That makes it seven tonnes heavier than the previous record holder, *Argentinosaurus*, (3)___ itself is bigger (4)___ a *Tyrannosaurus rex*!

Palaeontologists think it is a new species of titanosaur – part (5)___ a diverse group of sauropod dinosaurs (6)___ were characterised by (7)___ long necks and tails and small heads – dating (8)___ the Cretaceous period.

from / that / ever / which / their / than / on / of

The new dinosaur was discovered (1)___ a farm worker in the desert near La Flecha, which is about 250km (135 miles) west of Trelew, Patagonia in Argentina.

Researcher Dr Diego Pol said, "Given the size of these bones, which surpass (2)___ of the previously known giant animals, the new dinosaur is the largest animal known that walked the earth."

(3)___ far, researchers have excavated the fossils and found seven partial skeletons, amounting to around 150 bones. All are said to be in 'remarkable condition'. (4)___ new creature, which lived (5)___ the forests of Patagonia 95-100 million years ago, has yet to be named.

Researchers said, "(6)___ will be named describing (7)___ magnificence and in honour to both the region and the farm owners (8)___ alerted us about the discovery."

it / by / in / so / its / any / who / the

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina

Recently, the _____ was discovered in Argentina. The fossilised bones of the dinosaur, believed to be the largest creature ever to have walked the earth, were unearthed in Argentina.

Palaeontologists said, estimated on its huge thigh bone, it was 40m (130ft) long and 20m (65ft) tall. Weighing in at 77 tonnes, _____ 14 African elephants. That makes it seven tonnes heavier than the previous record holder, *Argentinosaurus*, _____ than a *Tyrannosaurus rex*!

_____ think it is a new species of titanosaur – part of a diverse group of sauropod dinosaurs that were characterised by their _____ and small heads – dating from the Cretaceous period.

_____ discovered by a farm worker in the desert near La Flecha, which is about 250km (135 miles) west of Trelew, Patagonia in Argentina.

Researcher Dr Diego Pol said, "Given the size of these bones, _____ the previously known giant animals, the new dinosaur is the _____ that walked the earth."

So far, researchers have excavated the fossils and found seven partial skeletons, amounting to around 150 bones. All are said to be in '_____'. The new creature, which lived in the forests of Patagonia 95-100 million years ago, has yet to be named. Researchers said, "It will be named describing its magnificence and in honour to both the region and the farm owners who alerted us _____."

www.newsflashenglish.com

Copyright D.J. Robinson 2014 (V1)

WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down 20 things you know about dinosaurs. 5-10 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Dinosaurs _____
- 2) The new dinosaur _____
- 3) Tyrannosaurus rex _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) bones
- 2) dinosaur
- 3) creature
- 4) thigh
- 5) heavy
- 6) species
- 7) diverse
- 8) sauropod

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) dinosaur
- 2) creature
- 3) Palaeontologists
- 4) thigh
- 5) elephants
- 6) previous
- 7) species
- 8) diverse
- 9) characterised
- 10) desert

ANSWERS

- 1) researchers
- 2) size
- 3) surpass
- 4) fossils
- 5) skeletons
- 6) remarkable
- 7) magnificence
- 8) honour

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) surpass
- 12) fossils
- 13) partial
- 14) skeletons
- 15) remarkable
- 16) condition
- 17) magnificence
- 18) honour
- 19) discovery
- 20) tails

Biggest ever dinosaur discovered in Argentina - *30th May 2014*