

Palaeontology Reading Comprehension

Read through this reading comprehension and answer questions on the answer sheet.

We have learned a lot from palaeontologists:

We know that there were animals who lived millions of years ago, including the dinosaurs!

Dinosaurs became extinct due to a falling asteroid. When the asteroid fell it caused the climate (weather) to change.

The climate became colder and the dinosaurs were not able to survive.

Fossil Hunting Then and Now

Finding fossils was, and still is, a dangerous activity. Falling rocks, slippery and sometimes unstable surfaces mean that it is necessary to take precautions when finding fossils.

Mary Anning was almost killed by a landslide (where lots of rocks fall at once from the cliff). Unfortunately her dog Trey did die.

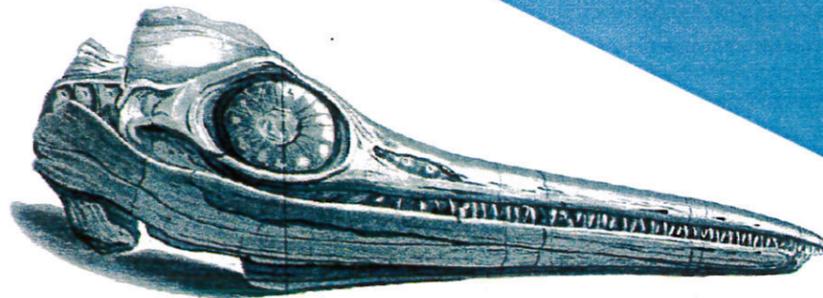
Now, palaeontologists search where fossils have already been found.

They keep safe by, for example, wearing hard hats.

New fossils are usually found by accident by people who are just out having fun at the beach or going for a walk!

Did You Know?

Not all dinosaurs are dead. All the birds (including chickens) that are alive today are related to the dinosaurs!



Palaeontology Reading Comprehension Question Sheet

Read the Palaeontology Reading Comprehension and then answer the following questions.

Q1: What are palaeontologists?

Palaeontologists are _____

Q2: What kind of animals lived millions of years ago?

Millions of years ago _____

Q3: What does the word 'extinct' mean?

The word extinct means _____

Q4: Explain why fossil hunting can be dangerous:

Fossil hunting can be dangerous because _____