



Baker Vail

Site of fossil discovery.

Big Bird Found

Scientists recently reported finding fossils of the largest bird ever known. (A fossil is the remains of a plant or an animal that lived long ago.) The creature is one of a group called terror birds. They lived millions of years ago in Argentina, a country in South America.

Until now, scientists had known only of terror birds that were between 5 feet and 9 feet tall. The newly discovered bird stood 10 feet tall. Its head was as big as a horse's head!

Terror birds could not fly, but they could run fast. They were skilled **predators**. A predator is an animal that feeds on other animals. The terror birds chased down rodents and reptiles and snapped them up for dinner.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How long ago did the largest bird ever known live?

- A a century ago
- B millions of years ago
- C billions of year ago
- D 1,000 years ago

2. How does the author *describe* terror birds?

- A slow runners
- B skilled predators
- C like a rodent
- D like a reptile

3. Why does the author write: "Until now, scientists had known only of terror birds that were between 5 feet and 9 feet tall"?

- A The sentence shows how skilled the newly-found bird could be.
- B The sentence shows how unusual the newly-found bird was.
- C The sentence shows how important it is for scientists to find fossils.
- D The sentence shows how fast the newly-found bird could move.

4. Read the following sentence from the passage:

"The creature is one of a group called terror birds. They lived millions of years ago in Argentina, a country in South America."

Based on the text, the word **creature** means

- A A make-believe person or animal
- B a newly-discovered predator
- C a living person or animal
- D a newly-discovered fossil

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A the discovery of fossils of a new kind of plant
- B the discovery of fossils of the largest bird ever known
- C the process of finding the fossils of the largest bird ever known
- D the research that has developed since the fossils of the largest bird even known were found

6. How did terror birds get around?

7. Why might fossils be very important to scientists who study animals of long ago? Give specific examples from the article that support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Many birds _____ robins use wings to fly, but terror birds did not fly.

- A so
- B because
- C such as
- D first

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Scientists study fossils to learn about plants and animals of long ago.

Who? scientists

(do) What? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** skilled: to have the knowledge and ability to do something well.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____
