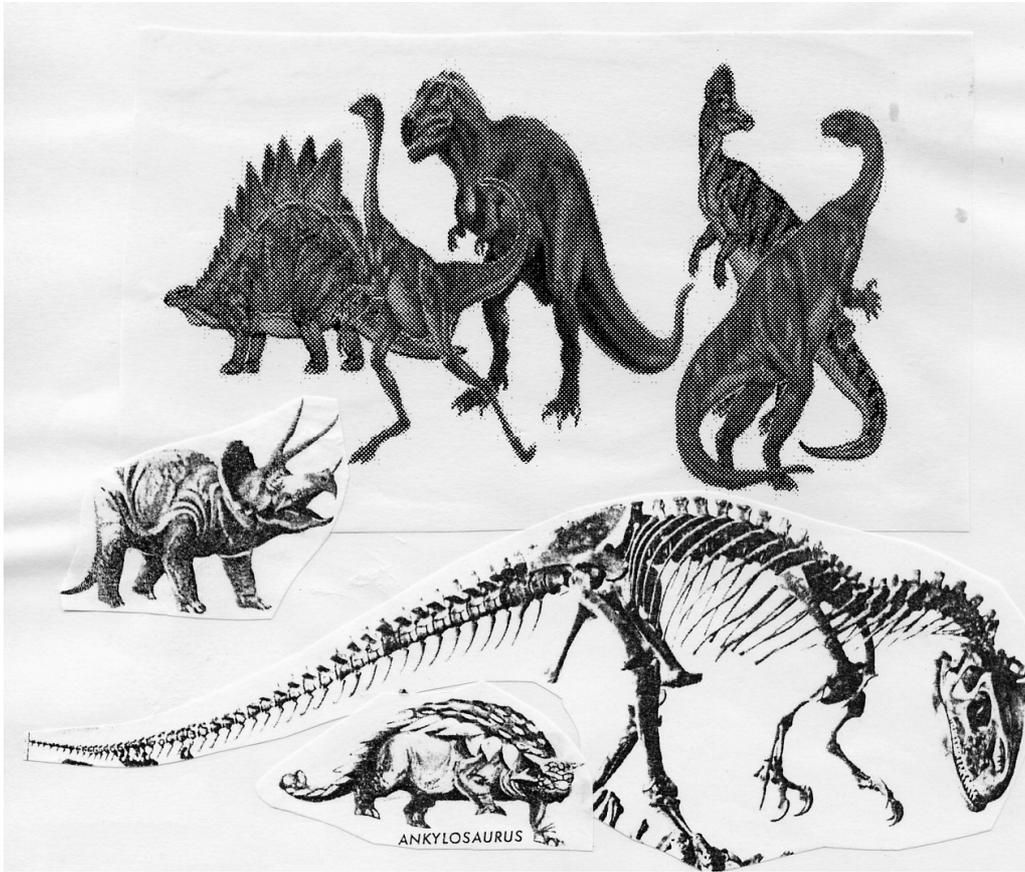


Unit 21

Dinosaurs Have Survived?

Grace Hsu



Pre-reading

1. What makes dinosaurs become **extinct**? What do you think of Darwin's **natural selection**?
2. Have you ever seen any dinosaur movie? What is it like?
3. How many kinds of dino do you know?
4. Is it necessary to recreate dino just for the **theme park** or to make a time machine that we can travel back to **prehistoric times**?

It was not until one hundred and fifty years ago that scientists learned about the existence of dinosaurs. The word “dinosaur”, first coined in 1842, was derived from two Greek words, deino(s), meaning “terrible” and sauros, meaning **lizards**.

5 Millions of years before human beings live on the Earth, the largest land animal dinosaurs ruled this area for 150 million years. However, they stopped existing by the end of the **Cretaceous period**.

The discoveries of dinosaur bones, **fossil** footprints, eggs, and **skeletons** have provided **evidences** supporting the existence of such extinct **reptiles**.
10 Many have been found in Australia, **the Gobi Desert**, and the Sahara Desert. Some of them are very well **preserved**. Besides, scientists have **reconstructed** the skeletons and have learned a great deal from these **remains**.

The remains show that there are many types of dinosaurs. Some were 20 meters long and weighed 27-36 metric tons while others were small, no longer
15 than today’s donkeys. Also, not all of the dinosaurs were meat-eating, some were vegetarians. In 1995, a 3-year-old boy picked up a 150-million-year-old dinosaur egg in New Mexico. This “rock” not only gives more evidence that meat-eating dinos laid hard-shelled eggs during the upper Jurassic period but confirms the theory that modern birds may have come from dinos.

20 Why dinosaurs became extinct while other groups, such as snakes, turtles and birds continue to live is not completely understood. There are many theories in regard to the disappearance of dinosaurs. One is that the widespread changes in **geography** at the end of the Cretaceous period affected the food supply of dinosaurs. Another **explanation** is **radiation** changes in the
25 past. However, the most popular theory is that a small **asteroid** or comet hit the Earth around 65 million years ago. The **collision** caused great destruction and greatly changed the world’s climate. The dinosaurs were unable to **adapt** and finally died out. This theory is also supported by many large **craters** found on the Earth.

Today, two of Spielberg's movies bring dinos back to life again on the Earth. Jurassic Park is about the existence of a secret island off the coast of Costa Rica, where the DNA dinos had been created from blood samples in the **bellies** of **insects** preserved in **amber**. But the day before the park opens, the dinosaurs are out of control and terrorize the park's first visitors. The Lost World continues the story of cloning dinosaurs for sport by some greedy businessmen for their San Diego theme park. However, things start to go wrong, too. A **hurricane** destroys a site and something has survived there.

Both movies pit scientific **pride** against the **ungovernable** force of nature and also raise the **moral issues** of DNA technology and **genetic engineering**. Nowadays, when we already have so many dino sites and museums, what's the theme park for? We can't help asking whether we humans have to play God.

Mini-dictionary

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. dinosaur (n) 恐龍 | 16. explanation (n) 解釋 |
| 2. survive (v) 存活；生還 | 17. geography (n) 地理 |
| 3. extinct (adj) 絕種；滅絕 | 18. radiation (n) 幅射 |
| 4. natural selection (n) 天擇 | 19. asteroid (n) 小行星 |
| 5. theme park (n) 主題公園 | 20. collision (n) 互撞 |
| 6. lizard (n) 蜥蜴；壁虎 | 21. adapt (v) 適應 |
| 7. Cretaceous period 白堊紀 | 22. crater (n) 坑洞 |
| 8. fossil (n) 化石 | 23. belly (n) 肚子；腹部 |
| 9. skeletons (n) 架構；骨骼 | 24. insect (n) 昆蟲 |
| 10. preserve (v) 保存 | 25. amber (n) 琥珀 |
| 11. evidence (n) 證據 | 26. hurricane (n) 颶風 |
| 12. reptile (n & a) 爬蟲類；爬行的 | 27. pride (n) 驕傲 |
| 13. the Gobi Desert (n) 戈壁大沙漠 | 28. ungovernable (adj) 無法控制的 |
| 14. reconstruct (v) 重新架構 | 29. moral issue (n) 道德問題 |
| 15. remains (n) 遺物；殘餘 | 30. genetic engineering (n) 基因工程 |

Grammar

- A. 字首 pre- 表 “before”，例如 * prehistoric times (n) 史前時代
 * **preview** * **prepare** * **pre-war**
 字尾 -ize 表「使...變為」，如 * **terrorize** (v) 使陷入恐怖
 * **realize** * **apologize** * **modernize** * **digitalize**
 * **criticize**
- B. It be 加強部份(主詞/ 受詞 /副詞) who/which/that 句子其餘部份
 * **I am to blame.**(強調 I)= It is **I** who (that) am to blame.
 * They fought for **peace** = It was _____ they fought for.
- C. 1. a great/good deal 「大量；許多」，當名詞及副詞用
 * He smokes a great deal.
 2. a great/ good deal of= much= a lot of= plenty of，當形容詞用
 * He spent a great deal of money.
- D. can not help + V-ing = can not but + V 原型= can not help but + V 原型
 “不得不；忍不住” * I can not help think that he is still alive. (改錯)

Exercise

A True or False

1. Dinosaurs are not reptiles.
2. The discoveries of fossils have supported the existence of dinos.
3. Dinosaurs stopped existing before the end of the Cretaceous period.
4. All donos are very large and meat-eating.

B. Fill in the Proper Preposition (介系詞)

1. 源自；起源： derive _____
2. 關於： _____ regard _____
3. 使 A 抗衡 B；A 與 B 競爭： pit A _____ B
4. 開玩笑；鬧著玩： _____ sport

Those who are interested in dinos can check out the following websites :

<http://www.drnet.com.tw>

<http://www.lost-world.com>

光碟及網路百科全書 Encarta Online's Schoolhouse