

Kings of the World

by William Wise



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1 Millions and millions of years ago, the world was very warm. It was much warmer than it is now.

2 There was never any winter or snow then. Warm rain fell on the land. Even the sea was warm. In this warm

world lived strange beasts called dinosaurs. Some of them were the biggest animals that ever walked the land. They were the kings of the world for a long time.

3 In the days of the dinosaurs, there

were no men. So no man has ever seen a living dinosaur. But we know what kind of animals the dinosaurs were because we have found their bones. And after years of study we have learned a lot about the dinosaurs.

4 We know that some dinosaurs lived near the water. Some lived on dry land.

5 We know that some dinosaurs ate only plants, just as horses and cows eat grass now. Some dinosaurs ate other animals, as lions eat other animals now.

6 We know how large the dinosaurs were. Some of them were bigger than any animal you have ever seen. But some of them were as small as chickens. Some dinosaurs had bodies as big as locomotives or small aircraft. They had very long necks and very long tails. They liked the water. They stayed in it as much as they could. It was easy for them to walk in the water. But it was hard for them to walk on land, because they were so heavy. They found much of their food in the water. And they needed a lot of food because they were so big.

7 The most terrible dinosaur of all was Tyrannosaurus. He was one of the last of the dinosaurs. He ate only animals. He was very tall. He could look over the top of a tall tree. He was as long as a big bus. His teeth were as long as a man's hand. And his mouth was full of teeth. He was the most awful beast that ever lived on the land. When Tyrannosaurus came by, the other dinosaurs must have run. Some must have run into the water. Some must have hidden in the plants or behind trees.

8 Then, after millions of years, something happened to the dinosaurs. All at once they began to die out. No one knows why. All we can do is guess what happened.

9 We know that the world grew a little colder. Maybe the dinosaurs could live only when it was very warm. And they died out when it grew colder. But we are not sure. All we know is that the dinosaurs were the kings of the world for a long time.

10 Then they were gone.

11 And no animals like them have ever been seen again.

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How Well Did You Understand?

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

1 Another good name for this story is

- a "In Dinosaur Days"
- b "The Biggest Bones"
- c "Why Dinosaurs Died"

2 Some dinosaurs were like lions when they

- a ate plants and grass
- b ate other animals
- c stayed in the water most of the time

3 People know how big dinosaurs were because

- a they have found living dinosaurs
- b they have found pictures of dinosaurs
- c they have found dinosaur bones

4 People know for sure that dinosaurs

- a often ate cavemen
- b lived for millions of years
- c died because it was too cold

5 To see today how a dinosaur looks, you should

- a go to a zoo
- b go to a library
- c go to a pet store

Learn about Words

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Directions: Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 different; unusual (2)
- 2 rulers (2)
- 3 parts of the skeleton (3)
- 4 railway engines (6)
- 5 large; fat; weighing a lot (6)
- 6 stayed out of sight (7)
- 7 think up a reason for (8)
- 8 took place (8)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

My dad is a football fan.

He keeps cool with an electric fan.

Directions: Look at each word in **heavy type**. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 9 **kind** (3)
 - a sort; type
 - b friendly; agreeable
- 10 **study** (3)
 - a thinking; seeking answers
 - b room used for reading

Think about It

- D** What happened first in the story? What happened second? What happened third, fourth, and last?

Directions: Read the sentences. They tell what happened in the story. But they are not in the right order. Which word in the box tells when each sentence happened? Write the word.

first second third
fourth last

- 1 People started to live on the earth.
 - 2 The earth grew colder.
 - 3 Dinosaurs ate plants and other animals.
 - 4 People studied dinosaur bones.
 - 5 All the Tyrannosaurus dinosaurs died.
- E** Read the sentences. Look at the pronoun in **heavy type**. Which answer tells *who* or *what* the pronoun stands for? Write *a* or *b*.
- 6 Once the world was very warm and had no snow. Then **it** grew colder.
a snow
b world
 - 7 You and I have never seen a real, live Tyrannosaurus. **We** would probably be scared if one walked by!
a You and I
b Tyrannosaurus and you
 - 8 Tyrannosaurus was bigger than any lion. **He** had big teeth and ate animals.
a Tyrannosaurus
b lion
 - 9 Some dinosaurs were as big as locomotives. **They** stayed in the water most of the time.
a locomotives
b dinosaurs
 - 10 Many people like books about dinosaurs. **They** spend hours reading them.
a Many people
b dinosaurs

Find Out More

Get a book with pictures of dinosaurs. Write some sentences telling about one dinosaur. How tall was it? How much did it weigh? What did it eat? How did it move around? Then read your sentence to your class and show them some pictures of the dinosaur.