

DINOS A to Z

Learn
BRIGHT

BARYONYX

High-Interest Reading Comprehension



GRADE **2-4**

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Dinos A to Z: Baryonyx

¹The Baryonyx (BEAR·ee·AWE·nicks) lived between 98 and 144 million years ago. Scientists think this dinosaur was a carnivore. It mainly **feasted** on fish and other water dinosaurs.

²It was not a tiny dinosaur, though! The Baryonyx grew to about 25 feet high. It weighed about one and a half tons. Its head was similar to the modern crocodile. And like the crocodile, its teeth were sharp and very curvy. The Baryonyx had about 100 teeth. If you have ever seen a knife with a **serrated** edge, like a steak knife, that is what its teeth looked like! Scientists think the Baryonyx had more teeth than a T-rex.

³Scientists also think this dino walked upright on two feet but sometimes moved on all four legs. On its first finger was a large hooked claw. It probably used the claw to snag food. It may have used it to defend itself from other predators, too. The claw is how the Baryonyx got its name. Baryonyx means "heavy claw."



⁴How do scientists know about this dinosaur? In 1983, they found the remains of one. In its remains were fish bones. That is how scientists know what the Baryonyx had for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks! Like many carnivores, it was probably also a **scavenger** hunter. When scientists found its fossil remains, it had both the bones of another dinosaur and fish bones.

⁵The Baryonyx was not an **aquatic** creature. But scientists think it was probably a good swimmer. It spent most of its time along shallow banks looking for fish. Here is one interesting fact about the Baryonyx: Scientists know little about them, but they are featured in several movies, videos, and games. You might say they are dinosaur movie stars!





WHY NOT AQUATIC?

Instructions: Aquatic creatures are animals that live in the water. For example, sharks are aquatic creatures. The author writes, "The Baryonyx was not an aquatic creature. But scientists think it was probably a good swimmer." If something is a good swimmer, why isn't it also an aquatic creature? Look at the picture of the Baryonyx. Think of an aquatic creature. Use the image to explain why the Baryonyx was not aquatic.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 12 horizontal lines.



Practice

Name _____ Date _____



Instructions: What did you learn? Answer the questions based on what you read.

1) How did the Baryonyx get its name?

2) What are serrated teeth?

3) How do scientists know what the Baryonyx ate for dinner?

4) What word is the opposite of aquatic?

a. saltwater

b. freshwater

c. terrestrial

d. seafaring

5) How is a Baryonyx different from a crocodile?
