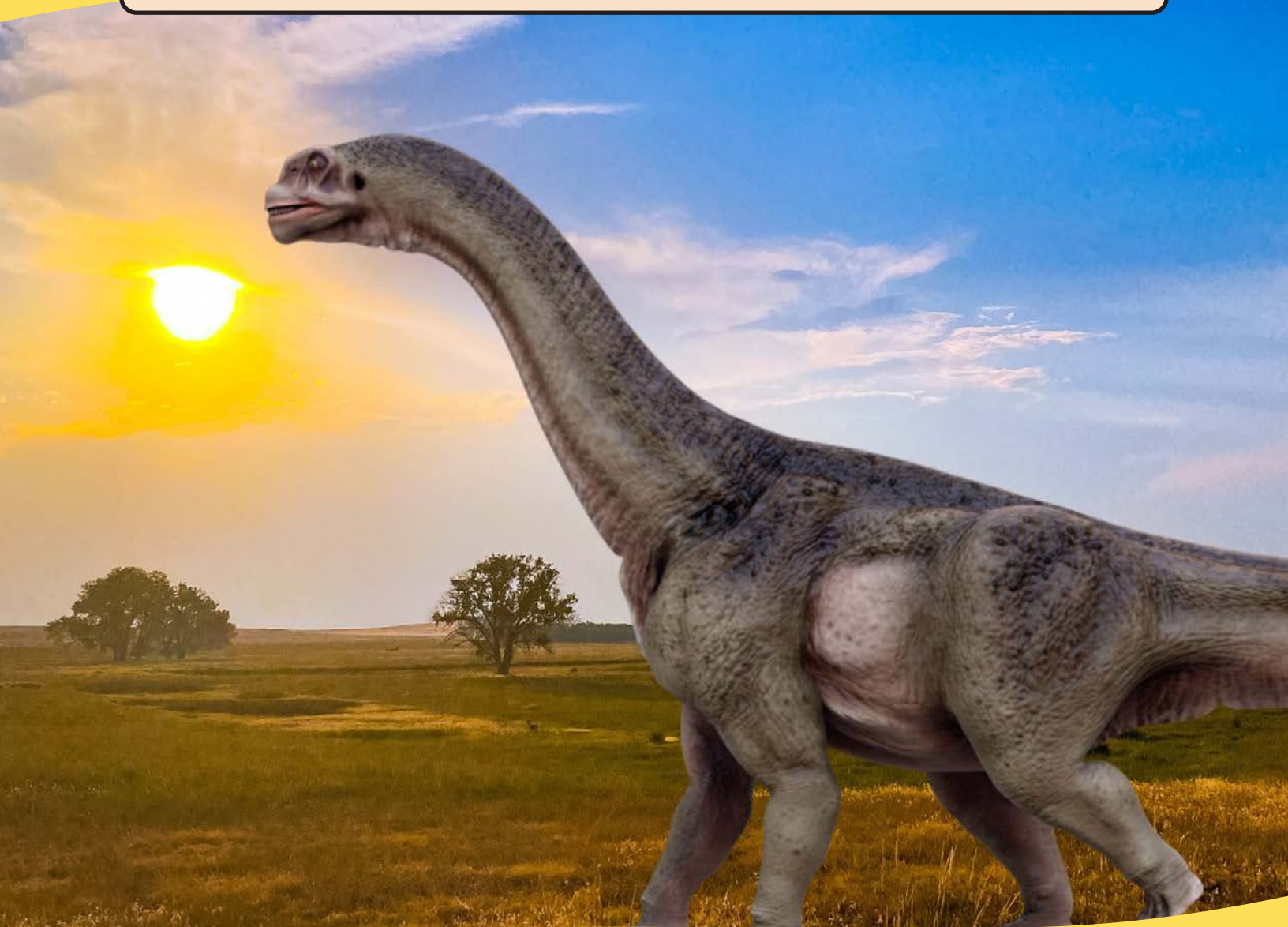


DINOS A to Z

Learn
BRIGHT

CAMARASAURUS

High-Interest Reading Comprehension



GRADE **2-4**

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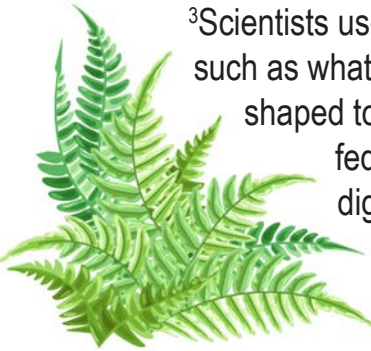
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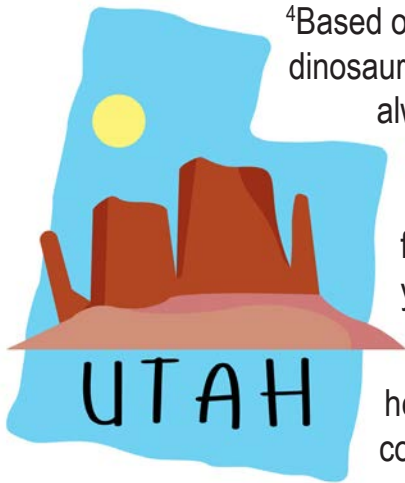
Dinos A to Z: Camarasaurus

¹When you think of long-necked dinosaurs, what's the first one that comes to mind? Probably the Brontosaurus! But, one smaller dinosaur may have been more common. It is called the Camarasaurus (CAM•er•ruh•SOAR•us). It could grow to about 50 feet high.

²Like its Brontosaurus cousin, the Camarasaurus was an herbivore. It weighed somewhere around 20 tons. You may think that is a lot, and it is. Compared to other family members who might weigh up to 100 tons, though, it was small. Fossil evidence **indicates** that the Camarasaurus roamed what is now called the Great Plains on the North American **continent**.



³Scientists use fossils in many different ways. Fossils tell stories, after all, such as what kind of plants a dinosaur eats. Camarasaurus fossil teeth are shaped to shred **fibrous**, stalky plants. That means they probably fed on the plants that other herbivores would have difficulty digesting. Its predators feasted on the injured, sick, or young Camarasaurus dinosaurs. Their smaller size would have made them easier prey for predators like the Allosaurus.



⁴Based on the many Camarasaurus fossils they have found, scientists think these dinosaurs were more plentiful than others. Finding a lot of dinosaur fossils doesn't always mean there was more of one **species** than others, though. It might mean that the place where they found the fossils is a better preserver of fossils than other areas. Utah is a good example. The hot, dry, arid areas preserve more fossils than, say, the swamps of Florida. Fossils can be buried under millions of years of dirt and **sediment**.

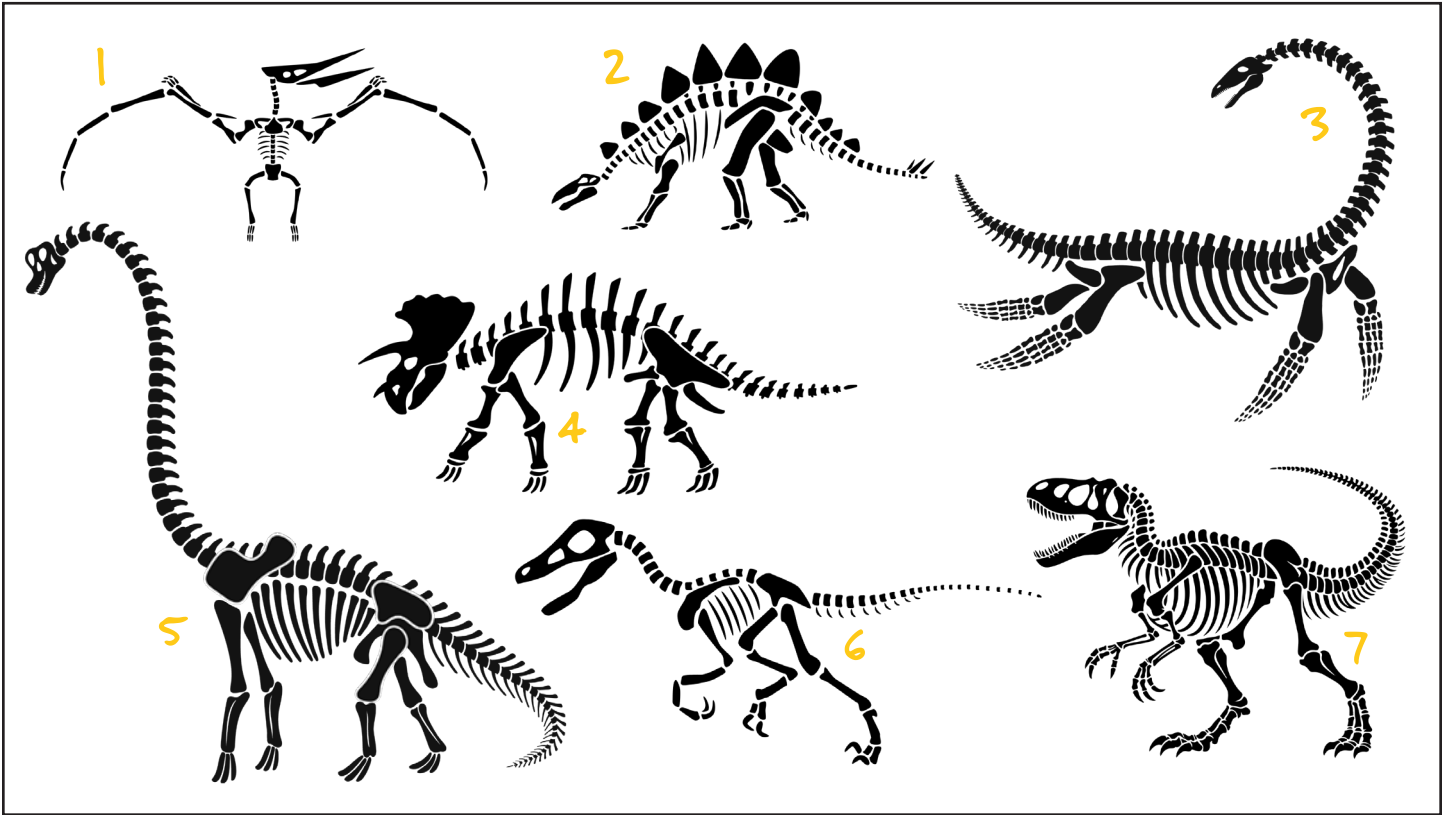
⁵One unique feature of the Camarasaurus was that it had large openings in its head. Scientists think the holes might have kept the dinosaur cool. They also believe the dinosaur might have eaten small stones to help digest its food. But they use Camarasaurus fossils to simply **infer** these findings. There is no direct evidence that either **theory** is true.





INFERENCES

Instructions: Scientists use fossils to infer what they think dinosaurs were like. Look at each of the seven dino bones pictures. Infer one thing about what you think each dinosaur was like. For example, what foods might it have eaten? Do you think it was fast or slow or could swim?



From the pictures of the fossils, I infer that . . .

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____



Practice

Name _____ Date _____



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

1) How was the Camarasaurus different from the Brontosaurus?

2) What stories do fossils tell?

3) What does it mean to infer something?

4) What word is the opposite of fibrous?

- a. stalky b. pulpy c. tender d. course

5) Why do scientists infer things about dinosaurs, such as what they eat? Why don't they know?
