

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, September 1, 2015 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

Iowa fossils show 'bug' as big as a man once ruled the seas (Main News, page A10)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions. Also discuss what clues the picture accompanying the article might give you.

2. Vocabulary: Match the words or phrases to the numbered definitions below.

- A. aggressive
- B. curator
- C. dammed
- D. dominant
- E. elongated
- F. eurypterid
- G. fossil
- H. invertebrate
- I. paleontology
- J. predatory
- K. prehistoric
- L. scorpion
- M. specimen

1. to build a dam across (a river or stream)
2. any aquatic arthropod of the extinct order Eurypterida, from the Paleozoic Era, closely related to trilobites and scorpions
3. the science that deals with the fossils of animals and plants that lived very long ago especially in the time of dinosaurs
4. a person who is in charge of the things in a museum, zoo, etc.
5. a small animal related to spiders that has two front claws and a curved tail with a poisonous stinger at the end
6. a type of animal that does not have a backbone
7. to make (something) longer or to grow longer
8. living by killing and eating other animals
9. ready and willing to fight, argue, etc.
10. of, relating to, or existing in the time before people could write
11. something (such as an animal or plant) collected as an example of a particular kind of thing
12. more important, powerful, or successful than most or all others
13. something (such as a leaf, skeleton, or footprint) that is from a plant or animal which lived in ancient times and that you can see in some rocks

Comprehension

1. The prehistoric creature that was discovered are part of the _____ family, which are basically sea scorpions. **(Fill in the blank)**
2. According to the article how big was the creature *Pentecopterus decorahensis* that was discovered?
3. Geologists at the Iowa Geological Survey found 150 pieces of fossils about 60 feet under what?
4. How were the geologists able to collect the specimens?
5. Scientists at Yale University determined that the fossils were from a new species from about 460 million years ago when Iowa was under what?
6. How did James Lamshed, lead author of the study about the new species, say he could tell how this creature grabbed prey and pushed it into its mouth?
7. According to the article, how was this creature's tail different from modern land scorpions?
8. How did Lamshed say *Pentecopterus decorahensis* used its tail?
9. What is the creature *Pentecopterus decorahensis* named after?
10. By scientific definitions *Pentecopterus decorahensis* is a bug – **true or false?**

Additional Activities

1. Have students view a video with Nigel Marven, a British wildlife TV presenter, about sea scorpions and a massive orthocone.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FigFS3RHHsU>
2. Have students watch the following short animation (1:05) about the book gills of scorpions and how they evolved.
<http://shapeoflife.org/video/arthropod-animation-scorpion-book-gills>
3. **Answer the following questions about the article you just read:**
 - A. Who or what is this article about?
 - B. Why do you think this article is important?
 - C. What is the most important or interesting fact you learned from this article?

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