NEWS BREAK

Article: Dinosaur that inspired fearsome ‘Jurassic Park’ raptors to be sold

Section: MAIN, A8

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from Sunday, May 1, 2022 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.*

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will discuss the process by which fossils are found and sold. They will debate whether it’s fair that those that find it get to sell it to the highest bidder, or whether that’s unethical and should be given to science and public access, like museums.
**Pre-Reading Discussion:**

• What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
• Are there any clues? What can you infer?

**Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

And now, dinosaur **enthusiasts** can bid on one of their own.

**Enthusiast Guess:**

**Enthusiast Definition:**

**Comprehension Questions:**

1. Hector, a Deinonychus antirrhopus skeleton, will be auctioned by Christie’s. The estimated price tag for the 4-foot-tall specimen is what?
2. In the 1993 movie, they’re called__________________, but those creatures were more like a different, related species, Deinonychus antirrhopus, a name the author of the novel “Jurassic Park,” Michael Crichton, considered a less dramatic choice.
3. The movie helped turn velociraptors (well, technically Deinonychuses) into one of the most recognizable dinosaurs, alongside the __________.
4. The auction house Christie’s said Friday that it would be selling a Deinonychus skeleton it calls __________, which was excavated in Montana several years ago. The company said it would be the first public sale of such a specimen.

5. _______________ have mixed opinions on the practice of auctioning off dinosaur skeletons; some are fiercely opposed to the practice, as it opens up the possibility that specimens can fall into the hands of someone who has no interest in scientific and public access but has the money to outbid a museum.

6. In 2020, a T. rex skeleton, nicknamed Stan, brought in a record $________ million, nearly quadrupling the high estimate of $8 million.

7. Dating back roughly _____ million years ago to the early __________ Period, the specimen was excavated by a commercial paleontologist, Jared Hudson, on private land at Wolf Canyon in Montana about nine years ago and was later acquired by its current owner, who is anonymous, according to the sales catalog.

8. Of the skeleton, ______ bones are real, and the rest are reconstructed.

9. The bones that are not real are cast or 3D printed, making the creature something of a piece of ________ as opposed to purely a fossil.

10. What does Deinonychus mean?

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- **What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?**
- **At first, I thought ________________, but now I think ____________?**
- **What things did you already know from prior experience?**

**What do you think should happen when fossils are found? Is it fair for those that find it to sell it to the highest bidder? Why or why not?**

**Should fossils be given to science and public access, like museums, so people can learn and see it? Why or why not?**

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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