

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 8

CONTEXT: Amazing Nature

Texas Dinosaurs

Sixteen different species of dinosaurs once lived in Texas. Some were small, and others were gigantic. Some were quiet plant eaters, and others were fierce meat eaters. They lived a long time ago—65 to 135 million years ago. Their fossils and footprints have been found in three areas of Texas: the Panhandle, North Central to West Texas, and the Big Bend area.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about the dinosaurs of Texas. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

acquire	disguise	hibernate	impostor	reference
conceal	gasp	imitate	portion	terminal

EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

acquire

After a museum is able to acquire the individual bones of a dinosaur, the hard work begins. Getting the bones is the easy part; it may take many months or even years before the skeleton can be fully assembled.

Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

conceal

It would have been difficult for the pleurocoelus to conceal itself. It weighed thirty-five tons and was fifty feet long.

3.

disguise

If a chasmosaurus walked into your schoolyard today, would you be able to **disguise** it and keep it a secret? How could you make a seventeen-foot-long creature with a big, bony plate and horns on its head look like anything but a dinosaur?

4.

gasp

One can imagine the last **gasp** of an animal eaten by deinonychus, the "terrible claw" dinosaur. Its final breath would be drawn in terror.

5.

hibernate

When dinosaurs lived, Texas was a hot and humid marshland. There would have been no need for dinosaurs to **hibernate**, or go into an inactive state, as some animals do in winter.

6.

imitate

The acrocanthosaurus, or "high-spined reptile," found in North Central to West Texas, **imitated** the tyrannosaurus by walking and using its claws and teeth in similar ways.

7.

portion

What **portion** of the body of a tenontosaurus was its tail? More than half of this fifteen-foot-long dinosaur, which once lived in North Central to West Texas, was tail.

8.

impostor

Don't be fooled by anyone who says he or she is a dinosaur expert and can show you a complete dinosaur skeleton no one else knows about. That person is probably an **impostor**.

9.

reference

Do you need **reference** material about dinosaurs in Texas? If you do, I can recommend several interesting books.

10.

terminal

The **terminal** days for dinosaurs came about sixty-five million years ago. There are several theories about what caused them to die out.

EXERCISE 2**Context Clues** 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____:
v. to inhale suddenly with surprise; *to breathe with difficulty*; *n.* a difficult inhalation of breath

_____ 12. word: _____:
v. to gain possession of

_____ 13. word: _____:
v. to give out in parts; *n.* an amount, share, or serving of something

_____ 14. word: _____:
n. a person who deceives others by pretending to be something he or she is not

_____ 15. word: _____:
adj. at the end of something; final; *n.* the ending point; a limit; either end of a transportation line

_____ 16. word: _____:
v. to hide something by changing its usual appearance; *n.* a costume

_____ 17. word: _____:
v. to spend the winter in an inactive state

_____ 18. word: _____:
v. to hide; to keep secret

_____ 19. word: _____:
n. the directing to a source for information; a mention of something or somebody; the naming of a person who can offer recommendation; *v.* to mention a source; *adj.* used or usable for reference

_____ 20. word: _____:
v. to copy exactly; to act the same as

COLUMN B

(A) Whatever event or events caused the end of the dinosaurs, the situation was **terminal**.

(B) Many books about dinosaurs include references to Texas dinosaur finds.

(C) Few visitors to the park can **conceal**, or hide, their awe when they see the gigantic footprints.

(D) Artists have **imitated** the tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park in North Central Texas, but seeing the copies cannot compare with seeing the real tracks.

(E) The scientist responsible for preserving the tracks is R. T. Bird. No one thought he was an **impostor** because it was clear that he was a true authority on dinosaur fossils.

(F) To create a model of a dinosaur, an artist must **acquire** knowledge about the creatures. It takes much study for an artist to get enough information to correctly duplicate a dinosaur.

(G) Children often **gasp** when they suddenly see the big models of dinosaurs at the park. After their surprise, the children run to see the dinosaurs up close.

(H) Park rangers **portion** the information they share, so visitors will not be overwhelmed with too much knowledge at once.

(I) Experts argue over whether dinosaurs were warm- or coldblooded, but no one believes they **hibernated** in cold weather, like some modern-day reptiles.

(J) A dinosaur costume would be an excellent **disguise**!

EXERCISE 3***Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings***

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. gasped at seeing the dinosaur
 (A) exhaled slowly
 (B) smiled broadly
 (C) inhaled suddenly
 (D) laughed loudly

22. to hibernate like some mammals
 (A) spend winter in an inactive state
 (B) spend summer in an active state
 (C) spend winter in a southern state
 (D) spend fall in a restless state

23. to acquire knowledge
 (A) remember
 (B) lose
 (C) maintain
 (D) gain

24. your reference to a dinosaur egg
 (A) decision about
 (B) mention of
 (C) discovery of
 (D) talk of

25. a good *Tyrannosaurus* disguise
 (A) drawing
 (B) statue
 (C) body
 (D) costume

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. a portion of a dinosaur fossil
 (A) whole
 (B) picture
 (C) part
 (D) likeness

27. conceals the fossil
 (A) keeps
 (B) hides
 (C) shows
 (D) takes

28. fossils sold by an **impostor**
 (A) deceiving, pretending person
 (B) doubting, sly person
 (C) honest, real person
 (D) unruly, dishonest person

29. the **terminal** footprint
 (A) first
 (B) final
 (C) second
 (D) greatest

30. imitated a flying reptile
 (A) followed the example of
 (B) pretended to be
 (C) searched for
 (D) acted differently from