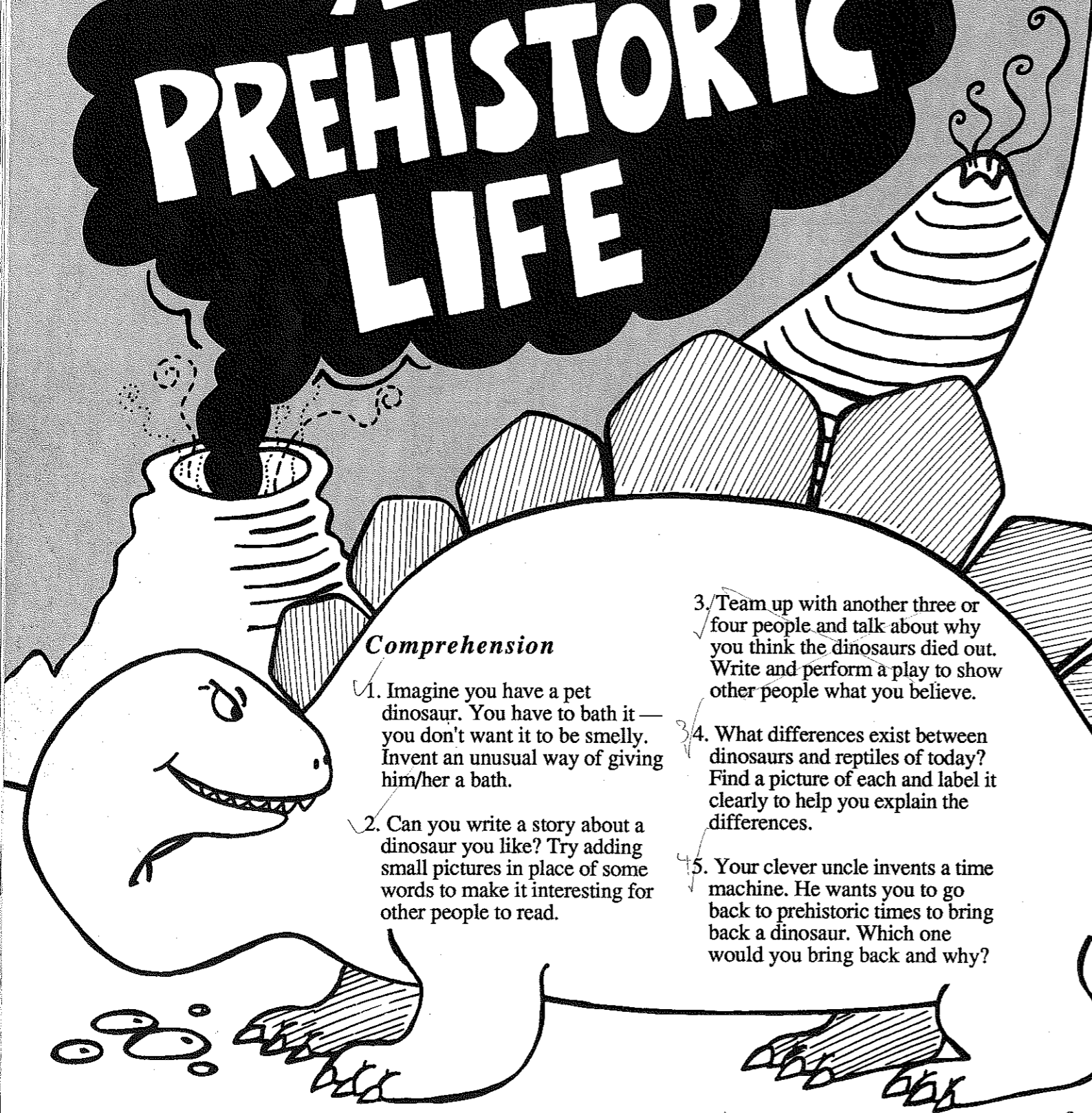


DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC LIFE



Comprehension

1. Imagine you have a pet dinosaur. You have to bath it — you don't want it to be smelly. Invent an unusual way of giving him/her a bath.
2. Can you write a story about a dinosaur you like? Try adding small pictures in place of some words to make it interesting for other people to read.
3. Team up with another three or four people and talk about why you think the dinosaurs died out. Write and perform a play to show other people what you believe.
4. What differences exist between dinosaurs and reptiles of today? Find a picture of each and label it clearly to help you explain the differences.
5. Your clever uncle invents a time machine. He wants you to go back to prehistoric times to bring back a dinosaur. Which one would you bring back and why?

Knowledge

1. How do scientists find out about dinosaurs? Draw a dinosaur bone, or even more, on a piece of paper, and give it to your friend. Listen to what your friend says about the bone.

2. Were all the dinosaurs big? Choose two dinosaurs in which you are interested. Find out their names and lengths. Measure the lengths out, then using wool or paper strips, record the lengths. Show your friends which dinosaur measures the longest. Which is the shortest?

3. **Plant eaters or meat eaters?** Make a list of all the dinosaurs which were plant eaters and a list of all the meat eaters. Is one list longer than the other, or are they nearly the same? Check your list with other people.

4. Were there other types of creatures living when the dinosaurs were alive? Make up a poem, song or story about these other creatures.

5. Is a palaeontologist someone who rides a dinosaur? What is a palaeontologist? Draw this person at work.

6. Find out lots of things about the special features of dinosaurs. With these facts, write an acrostic poem. Start each line of the poem with a letter from the word **DINOSAUR**.

Application

1. Do you know of any other creatures which have become extinct, or are nearly extinct? Collect pictures to make a scrapbook showing these creatures.

2. Can you design a board game which tells about prehistoric times? Make it up and play it with your friends.

3. Using papier-maché, or anything else you like, make a model of a dinosaur. Make it small. Now you need a balloon, some plaster, a margarine container and some masking tape. Blow the balloon up and attach it to the margarine container with masking tape. Now dribble wet plaster over the balloon. When dry, carefully remove the margarine container and pop the balloon. Now you have a dinosaur egg. Place your model inside the egg.

4. Design a dinosaur that would survive today in our environment. Now make a Plasticene model of it and display it with your design sketches.

5. Make up a diorama showing the landscape clearly (you might choose a certain time period), and show two dinosaurs living in the environment. Can you make them move?

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Analysis

1. If the temperature of the Earth hadn't changed, what do you think might have happened to the dinosaurs? Other creatures? Plant life? Illustrate your thoughts.
2. Why do you think some prehistoric animals evolved? Why did they change? Make up a series of pictures showing one of these animals growing up. (You would be making a growth chart.)
3. Which theory about the dinosaurs becoming extinct do you think is the most likely to have happened? Make up a questionnaire to find out how many people agree or disagree with you.
4. Why have dinosaur bones survived? What would you do if you found a fossil? Write a story to answer these questions.
5. Can you explain what must have happened when the Earth cooled down? How do you think it affected the dinosaurs? Draw up a flow chart to show what you think happened.

Synthesis

1. You have discovered a live dinosaur in an abandoned gold mine. Design a television show that will help other people to like your dinosaur.
2. If two dinosaurs survived and had a look around today, what do you think they might say to each other? Create a play about their conversation.
3. How do you feel about the dinosaurs dying out? Why not compose a song about this to show your feelings.
4. What do you think would happen if flies became extinct? Design a puppet show to help explain your ideas. Why don't you use old socks?
5. Brachiosaurus had to stand in water most of the time to support his weight. Can you design something which would help Brachiosaurus to take a walk on land and to have a look around.

Evaluation

1. Can you think of a better reason why the dinosaurs died out? Prepare your case to present to the class. Be prepared for questions.
2. Do you think that the fact that dinosaurs died out is a good or a bad thing? Conduct a debate about this with other people for an audience.
3. How would you feel if pandas became extinct? Write to the Melbourne Zoo or to a zoo in China. Let them know how you would feel if this happened. Can you suggest some possible solutions?
4. Do you believe the Loch Ness Monster exists? Do you believe it is a dinosaur which has survived? Prepare a talk to tell your friends about this.
5. Reptiles of today differ in many ways from those of prehistoric times. Are today's reptiles better designed to suit their environment? Could you improve on the design of a modern reptile? You might like to illustrate your written answer.