

Image Analysis: Notice & Wonder

Instructions: Look at the image and write down 2-3 things you notice (key details, main ideas, themes) and then write down 2-3 things you wonder (questions you have because of the image, things you are curious about when you look at the image.)

**What
do you
notice?**



**What
do you
wonder?**

3-2-1 What I Learned

Instructions: After reading the next page, complete this 3-2-1 chart using all of the vocabulary words.

Key Vocabulary

opalised	fossils	complete	species	prehistoric
preserved in opal, a shiny gemstone	remains or traces of ancient organisms preserved in rock or other materials	having all necessary parts or elements	a group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding	belonging to or existing in times before recorded history

3 Things I Learned...

From the reading I learned...	Another thing I learned...	One more thing I learned...

2 Drawings or Pictures to Represent the Reading...

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1 Question I have is...

After reading, one question I have is...

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Read & Take Notes

Instructions: Read the passage below. Take notes in the space provided.

Did you know that scientists have discovered opalised dinosaurs in Australia? Opalised dinosaurs are fossils of dinosaurs that have been preserved in opal, a shiny gemstone. One of the most complete opalised dinosaur skeletons ever found was discovered near Lightning Ridge in outback New South Wales. The fossils were found by an opal miner named Robert Foster in the 1980s. The new dinosaur species that was discovered has been named *Fostoria dhimbanungmal*. It is the first dinosaur herd to be discovered in Australia. The fossils include bones from at least four different dinosaurs, ranging from small juveniles to larger animals that could have been five meters long. The bones are mostly grey patch opal and were found at the Sheeppark opal field.

Dinosaurs are not the only opalised fossils found in Australia. There is also a plesiosaur named Eric that was discovered in Cooper Pedy. Plesiosaurs are aquatic reptiles, not dinosaurs. Eric is one of the most complete opalised vertebrates ever found. He lived in the Eromanga Sea, which covered parts of inland Australia during the Early Cretaceous period, about 120-90 million years ago. Eric was a small plesiosaur, about the size of a seal, and had a long neck and a small head. His bones are encrusted with opal, giving them a shimmering appearance.

Opalised dinosaur fossils are very rare and special. They are usually only found by collectors or in museums. Opalised fossils can be identified by their opal color and the fact that they do not stick to your tongue when you lick them. Opalised dinosaur fossils have been found in different parts of Australia, including Lightning Ridge, Cooper Pedy, and Winton. Some of the fossils, like Elliot the Titanosaur, were enormous, weighing up to 100 tonnes and measuring 45 meters long. Others, like Eric the Plesiosaur, were smaller and lived in the ocean. Opalised dinosaur fossils are important because they give us clues about what life was like millions of years ago.

In conclusion, opalised dinosaurs have been discovered in Australia, including a new dinosaur species named *Fostoria dhimbanungmal*. These fossils were found near Lightning Ridge and are some of the most complete opalised dinosaur skeletons ever found. Opalised fossils are very rare and special, and they can be found in different parts of Australia. They give us important information about the past and help us learn more about dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.

Take Notes Here

Answer and Explain

Instructions: For each question, answer the question and then explain why you picked the answer you did using specific evidence from the text.

Question:

1. Where was the most complete opalised dinosaur skeleton ever found?

Pick the Answer

- A) Lightning Ridge
- B) Cooper Pedy
- C) Winton
- D) Sheepyard opal field

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

Question:

2. What is special about opalised dinosaur fossils?

Pick the Answer

- A) They are very common and can be found everywhere.
- B) They stick to your tongue when you lick them.
- C) They give us clues about what life was like millions of years ago.
- D) They are made of shiny gemstones.

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

Question:

3. Which of the following statements is true about Eric the Plesiosaur?

Pick the Answer

- A) He was a small dinosaur that lived on land.
- B) He had a long neck and a small head.
- C) His bones were not encrusted with opal.
- D) He lived in Lightning Ridge.

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

Short Answer Questions

Question

1. What is an opalised dinosaur?

Question

2. Where was the most complete opalised dinosaur skeleton found?

Question

3. Why are opalised dinosaur fossils important?

Reflect

Instructions: Respond to the following question using the reading and your own knowledge and experiences. Be as thorough as possible.

2. If you could discover a new dinosaur species, what would you name it and why?

Write Your Response Here. Be sure to use what you learned in the reading and your own knowledge and experiences to answer the question thoroughly.

3. What can we learn from studying opalised dinosaur fossils? How does this knowledge impact our understanding of prehistoric creatures?

Write Your Response Here. Be sure to use what you learned in the reading and your own knowledge and experiences to answer the question thoroughly.