

Leo Discovers the World of Dinosaurs

Grade 3

English

Nonfiction

Dinosaurs Theme

~159 words

RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.6

Name: _____ Date: _____

 **READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Leo loved learning about the world dinosaurs once lived in. He opened a big book about prehistoric life. Leo discovered that dinosaurs lived in ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living things sharing one place. Plants, animals, and insects all lived together. Each part helped the others survive. Leo read about plant-eating dinosaurs first. These dinosaurs ate ferns, trees, and shrubs. They helped spread seeds across the land. New plants grew in different places because of them. The ecosystem stayed healthy and full of life. Next, Leo learned about meat-eating dinosaurs. They hunted and ate weaker animals. This kept animal groups from growing too large. A balanced ecosystem needs both plant-eaters and meat-eaters. Without this balance, the whole system could fall apart. Leo also found out that weather shaped ecosystems too. Rain helped plants grow tall and strong. Dry spells made food harder to find. Every living thing depended on its ****environment****. Leo now understood that every part of an ecosystem matters.

 *Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

 **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the passage say about how plant-eating dinosaurs helped the ecosystem?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word environment mean as it is used in this passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think an ecosystem might be in trouble if all the meat-eating dinosaurs disappeared?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happened because of dry spells in the dinosaur ecosystem?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does the passage show that meat-eating dinosaurs were important to the ecosystem?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Leo Discovers the World of Dinosaurs

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Leo loved learning about the world dinosaurs once lived in. He opened a big book about prehistoric life. Leo discovered that dinosaurs lived in ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living things sharing one place. Plants, animals, and insects all lived together. Each part helped the others survive. Leo read about plant-eating dinosaurs first. These dinosaurs ate ferns, trees, and shrubs. They helped spread seeds across the land. New plants grew in different places because of them. The ecosystem stayed healthy and full of life. Next, Leo learned about meat-eating dinosaurs. They hunted and ate weaker animals. This kept animal groups from growing too large. A balanced ecosystem needs both plant-eaters and meat-eaters. Without this balance, the whole system could fall apart. Leo also found out that weather shaped ecosystems too. Rain helped plants grow tall and strong. Dry spells made food harder to find. Every living thing depended on its **environment**. Leo now understood that every part of an ecosystem matters.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about how Leo learned that dinosaurs lived in ecosystems where every living thing depended on the others to survive.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the passage say about how plant-eating dinosaurs helped the ecosystem?

The passage says, "They helped spread seeds across the land," which shows that plant-eating dinosaurs helped new plants grow in different places.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word environment mean as it is used in this passage?

In this passage, environment means the natural surroundings — like weather, plants, and land — that all living things in an ecosystem depend on to stay alive.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think an ecosystem might be in trouble if all the meat-eating dinosaurs disappeared?

If meat-eaters were gone, plant-eating animals would grow in very large numbers and eat too many plants, which would cause the ecosystem to fall out of balance and harm all living things in it.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happened because of dry spells in the dinosaur ecosystem?

Because dry spells came and rain stopped falling, food became harder for animals to find, which shows that weather directly affected the health of the ecosystem.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does the passage show that meat-eating dinosaurs were important to the ecosystem?

The passage states, "This kept animal groups from growing too large," which shows that meat-eaters played an important role in keeping the ecosystem balanced.