



PASSAGES

Read the passages and choose the correct answers.

Although dinosaurs roamed virtually the whole earth for 160 million years, dinosaur skeletons are relatively scarce. Many dinosaurs are known only from a single tooth or bone chip. The reason is that it takes very special conditions to make a fossil and a lot of luck to find one.

For many years, information about *Tyrannosaurus rex* was sketchy at best. However, in the summer of 1990, the first nearly complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton ever found was excavated in the Montana badlands. That same year, a second, even more complete, skeleton was found in South Dakota. Together these skeletons yielded surprising new insights into the most famous of the dinosaurs, about the anatomy and behavior of *T. rex* and the world in which it lived.

Among the surprising discoveries were that *T. rex* was a far sleeker, but more powerful, carnivore than previously thought, perhaps weighing less than 6 and a half tons, no more than a bull elephant, and that *T. rex*'s habitat was forest, not swamp or plain as previously believed. Moreover, there appears to have been two forms of *T. rex*, the male quite different from the female. Scientists hope that future fossil discoveries and increasingly more sophisticated techniques will provide more accurate and complete information about not only *T. rex* but all the dinosaurs, giving us a window on the world so many millions of years into the past.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that much of what scientists know about *T. rex* _____.
A. has been known for many years
B. has not come from fossil discoveries
C. has been derived from the most sophisticated techniques
D. has been recently discovered



2. The passage implies that fossils _____.
 - A. are usually found in the Midwest
 - B. are usually found in beds containing complete skeletons
 - C. are few in comparison to the number of dinosaurs that roamed the earth
 - D. are easy to discover but difficult to excavate

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. Interest in fossils is relatively recent.
 - B. It takes advanced techniques to find fossils.
 - C. The search for fossils has been going on for many years.
 - D. Dinosaurs were confined to a relatively small area.

4. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. It was a small but powerful dinosaur.
 - B. It was a strong, meat-eating dinosaur.
 - C. It was a fast, plain-dwelling dinosaur.
 - D. It was a gigantic, forest-dwelling dinosaur.

5. The passage implies which of the following?
 - A. Not all the conclusions scientists make are accurate.
 - B. We have all the information we need about life millions of years ago.
 - C. New discoveries are confirming old theories.
 - D. A whole skeleton is required for information about a dinosaur.



Brown bears are found in Alaska and Western Canada. They are first cousins of the grizzly, each belonging to the species *Urus arctos*. The chief difference in them is size, as brown bears on the average are slightly larger. A full-grown male may weigh 1,500 pounds and stand 9 to 10 feet tall. Like bears everywhere they are creatures of habit that tread the same trails year after year. Brown bears have three gaits: an even, deliberate one that takes them over rough or boggy ground at a steady clip, a quick shuffle, and a fast gallop. They are not only surprisingly fast, but also, for such huge beasts, amazingly agile. They can charge up and climb down nearly vertical inclines. Fishing the streams in summer, they pounce on swift-moving salmon and snatch them with almost simultaneous movements of their paws and mouths. Brown bears are excellent swimmers and love to loll and wallow in the water on warm days. They are also curious and playful. Most manifest a fear of humans, but Alaskans prefer not to test these creatures and usually carry noisemakers of some kind to warn the bears of their presence.

6. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- A. grizzlies are smaller than brown bears
- B. brown bears do not have the same habits as most bears
- C. grizzlies are not found in western Canada
- D. grizzlies and brown bears are not related



7. It is most probable that if a brown bear came across a human in the wild it would _____.

- A. attack the human
- B. avoid the human
- C. not be the least interested in the human
- D. be friendly toward the human

8. The passage implies that brown bears _____.

- A. are huge, awkward animals
- B. can negotiate almost any terrain
- C. are fierce and bad-tempered
- D. are not afraid of loud noise

9. The passage suggests that _____.

- A. it would not be unusual to see a bear cross a deep river
- B. brown bears catch salmon in quiet pools
- C. brown bears like to range over new territory
- D. brown bears are slow but agile

10. Which of the following can be implied from the passage?

- A. Alaskans have no fear of the brown bear.
- B. Alaskans do not know very much about the habits of the brown bear.
- C. Alaskans are not creatures of habit.
- D. Alaskans have a cautious respect for the brown bear.