



The real Indiana Jones

If you want to know about Roy Chapman Andrews, look up his name under "palaeontology" (the science that studies fossils to determine the structure and evolution of extinct animals and plants) in an encyclopaedia, or under "motion pictures" (cinema), because he is the inspiration for Hollywood's Indiana Jones. He was a great adventurer, and he travelled to remote corners of the world looking for traces of ancient life on Earth. He was strikingly attractive in his large hat, and he always carried a small gun.

From the time he was a schoolboy in Wisconsin, he dreamed of working for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. When he took his degree from Beloit College in 1906, he came to the Museum and offered to sweep floors, but the director gave him more important jobs.

He soon started exploring the wild forests of Korea; then he went on expeditions in the Pacific Ocean to study whales and soon became an authority in this field. Next, he went on five expeditions in Central Asia where he had many adventures. The Gobi Desert, between China and Mongolia, in fact, is extremely remote from civilization: there are no roads, no water and no shelter. There, Andrews found the first dinosaur eggs and proved that dinosaurs were oviparous. On all these expeditions he also faced the attacks of brigands who infested the area. Andrews was by then a world-famous scientist.

In 1935 he stopped travelling and became director of the museum where he once offered to sweep the floors. He retired seven years later to write books and scientific papers about his explorations. In 1959 he wrote his last book, "In the Days of the Dinosaur", a fascinating children's book providing an accurate description of dinosaurs. Andrews died a year later at the age of 76.

Are the following sentences True (T), False (F) or Not given (NG)?

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|---|---|---|----|
| 1 Palaeontology studies the remains of prehistoric animals or plants | T | F | NG |
| 2 Roy Chapman Andrews worked in the cinema industry. | T | F | NG |
| 3 He was prepared to do menial tasks to make his dream come true. | T | F | NG |
| 4 His first task in the Museum was listing fossils. | T | F | NG |
| 5 In the Pacific he studied dolphins and sharks. | T | F | NG |
| 6 During his expeditions in the deserts, Andrews slept in a tent. | T | F | NG |
| 7 In the Gobi Desert he found the proof that dinosaurs laid eggs. | T | F | NG |
| 8 He was the director of the Museum of Natural History of NY for 7 years. | T | F | NG |

Choose the right answer:

1 Roy Chapman Andrews

- a was Indiana Jones in the famous saga.
- b inspired the character of Indiana Jones.
- c was a famous palaeoanthropologist.
- d travelled around the world for pleasure .

2 His first expedition was in

- a Asia
- b Africa
- c Australia
- d America

3 The expedition in the Gobi Desert was

- a easy and exciting.
- b hard and fruitless.
- c very long and boring.
- d adventurous and profitable.

4 He wrote

- a adventure novels.
- b diaries about his experiences.
- c books about his explorations and about dinosaurs.
- d only scientific papers.



Answer the questions:

- 1) Where did Andrews study?
- 2) What was his dream as a young boy?
- 3) Where did he go on his first expedition?
- 4) Why were his expeditions hard and dangerous?
- 5) When did Andrews retire and what did he do after leaving his job?
- 6) What was his last book about?

7) Do you like adventure films? Why/Why not? (40 words)

8) Would you like to explore a dangerous place or to live an adventure in an exotic place? Explain.