

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING: Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| 1. DNA | <u>E</u> | A. at the same time |
| 2. ordinary | _____ | B. not unusual or special |
| 3. similar | _____ | C. the hard part of a bird's mouth |
| 4. meanwhile | _____ | D. to use hands and feet to travel up something |
| 5. beak | _____ | E. it has information about how to 'make' a living thing |
| 6. evolve (v.) | _____ | F. sharp nails on the feet of birds and animals |
| 7. claws | _____ | G. to change slowly over time |
| 8. climb (v.) | _____ | H. the same as (in some ways) |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense if necessary.

1. In some ways, Canada and the U.S. are similar countries.
2. When I was a kid, I loved to _____ trees.
3. My sister did her homework. _____, I slept on the sofa.
4. The _____ of cats and tigers is not very different.
5. Be careful! My pet cat has sharp _____.
6. Most scientists think that some dinosaurs _____ and became birds.
7. There's nothing special planned for today. It's just an _____ day.
8. Some birds have very long _____ they use to catch fish.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

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READING

Topics: Dinosaurs / Science & Technology

Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!



It's strange, but it's true. Scientists have started making dinosaurs.

How are they doing this? The answer may surprise you. Scientists from around the world are beginning to make changes to the **DNA**¹ of **ordinary**² chickens and in the future we may see living “chicken-dinosaurs”! In Chile, in 2015, scientists changed chicken DNA to make the feet of chickens more **similar**³ to dinosaur feet, and in 2016 the same scientists made the legs of chickens more like dinosaur legs.

Meanwhile⁴, scientists in the United States have been successful in making chicken **beaks**⁵ more like the mouths of dinosaurs. All this is possible because birds **evolved**⁶ from dinosaurs many millions of years ago. A good example of bird evolution is the ‘hoatzin’. It is a bird that lives in South America, and when it is a baby it has **claws**⁷ on its wings that it uses to **climb**⁸ trees. So, in the future, some chickens may also have skin, tails, and even arms like dinosaurs. I hope they will not be the same size as some dinosaurs!

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READING: Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!

How Much Do You Understand?

- *According to the article, write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.*

1. _____ The article is about how dinosaurs evolved into birds.
2. _____ Scientists from South America and North America are changing chicken DNA.
3. _____ Scientists have changed the feet, legs and beaks of some chickens.
4. _____ The article says that some birds evolved and became dinosaurs.
5. _____ Hoatzins live in South America.
6. _____ The article says some chickens are the same size as dinosaurs.

Discuss

- *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. The article doesn't say *why* scientists are changing the DNA of chickens.
Why do you think they are doing this?
2. Do you think it's a good idea to try to change chickens into dinosaurs?
Why? / Why not?

Write

- *Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.*
