READING: Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. DNA  **E**  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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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 of ordinary 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 to dinosaur feet, and in 2016 the same scientists made the legs of chickens more like dinosaur legs.

Meanwhile, scientists in the United States have been successful in making chicken beaks more like the mouths of dinosaurs. This is possible because birds evolved 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 on its wings that it uses to climb 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!
Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!

It's strange, but it's true. Scientists have (1) start making dinosaurs. How are they doing this? The answer may (2) surprise you. Scientists from around the world are beginning to (3) make changes to the DNA of ordinary 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 (4) more similar to dinosaur feet, and in 2016 the same scientists made the legs of chickens more like dinosaur legs. Meanwhile, scientists in the United States have (5) been successful in making chicken beaks more like the mouths of dinosaurs. (6) It is possible (7) that birds evolved from dinosaurs many millions of years ago. A good example of bird evolution is the ‘hoatzin’. It is a bird (8) that lives in South America, and when it is a baby it has claws on its wings that it uses to (9) climb trees. So, (10) in the future, some chickens may also have skin, tails, and even arms like dinosaurs. I hope they (11) are not the same size (12) as some dinosaurs!

1. (A) start  (B) started  (C) starting
2. (A) surprises  (B) surprised  (C) surprise
3. (A) made  (B) making  (C) make
4. (A) more  (B) much  (C) most
5. (A) be  (B) been  (C) being
6. (A) This  (B) Then  (C) Those
7. (A) because  (B) but  (C) and
8. (A) where  (B) who  (C) that
9. (A) climbed  (B) climbing  (C) climb
10. (A) at  (B) in  (C) on
11. (A) will  (B) are  (C) do
12. (A) with  (B) as  (C) on
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.

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________
# Reading Lesson

## Topic: Dinosaurs / Science & Technology

### Lesson “Scientists are Making Dinosaurs!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammar Focus</th>
<th>Mixed (includes Present Perfect Simple)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>175 words</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A1 words-70% / A2 words-12% / B1 words-6% / B2 words-2%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AWL Words in this text: evolution, evolved, similar</td>
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<td>Level</td>
<td>Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)</td>
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<td>3. H</td>
<td>3. Meanwhile</td>
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<td>4. A</td>
<td>4. DNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. C</td>
<td>5. claws</td>
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<td>6. G</td>
<td>6. evolved</td>
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<td>7. F</td>
<td>7. ordinary</td>
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<td>8. D</td>
<td>8. beaks</td>
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### Answer Key Page 1

- **My Notes**

### Answer Key Page 3

- **Grammar (Article)**

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<td>1. B</td>
<td>7. A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. C</td>
<td>8. C</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. C</td>
<td>9. C</td>
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<td>5. B</td>
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### Answer Key Page 4

- **How Much Do You Understand?**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. F</td>
<td>(It is about how scientists are changing chickens’ DNA to ‘make’ dinosaurs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>4. F</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. F</td>
<td>(It doesn’t say this.)</td>
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### Article Sources:

- [http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2016/03/15/14188/#_WBSF2i197IV](http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2016/03/15/14188/#_WBSF2i197IV)