

Comprehension

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** gives information about real people, places or things.



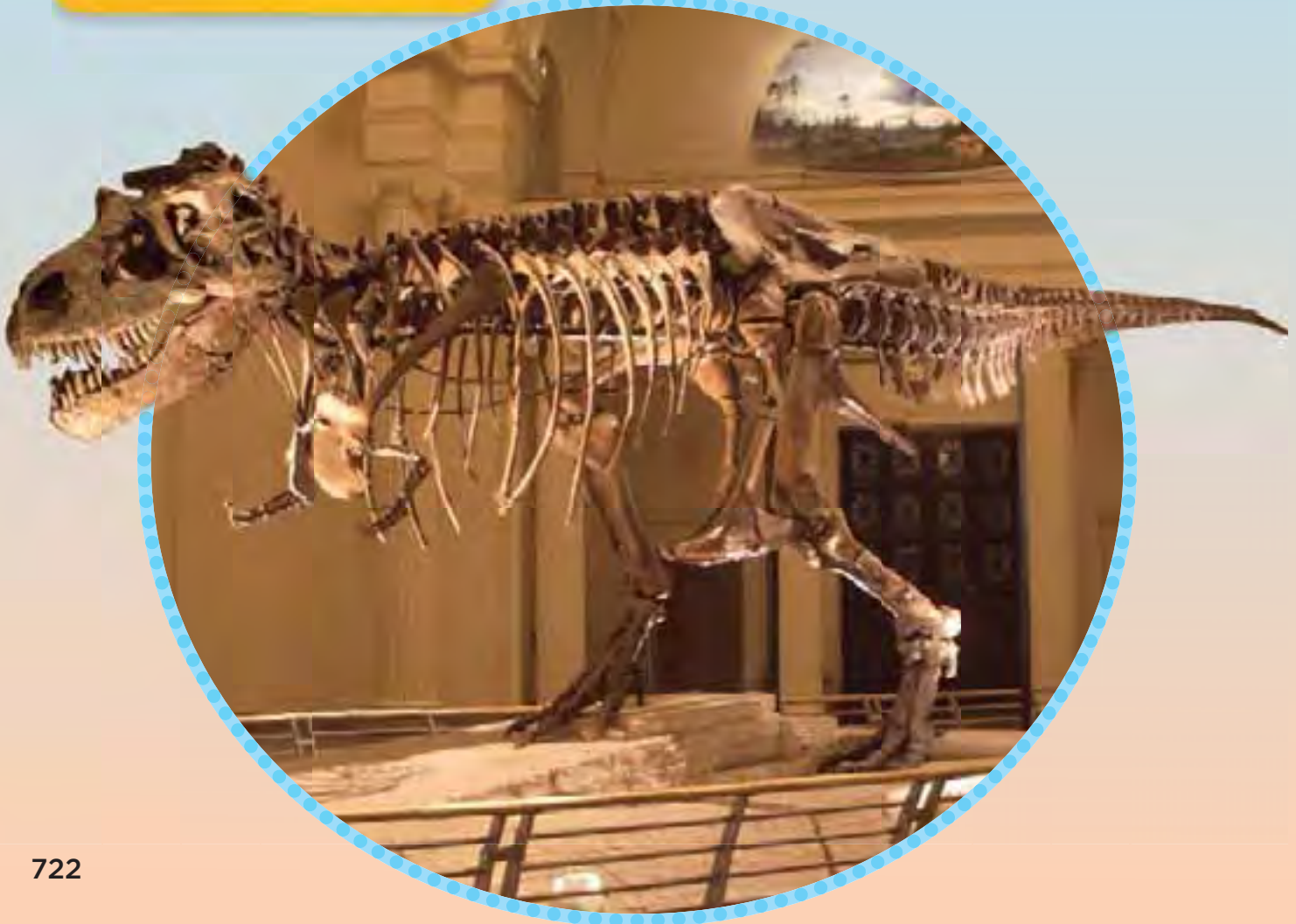
Monitor Comprehension

Make Generalizations

A generalization is a broad statement. It combines facts in a selection with what a reader already knows to tell what is true in many cases.

Meet a Bone-ified Explorer

What does a paleontologist do next after she's discovered the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex fossils ever found?





Sue Hendrickson poses with a model of the foot of the Tyrannosaurus Rex she found.

As a little girl in Munster, Indiana, Sue Hendrickson always kept her eyes on the ground. “I was really shy and always walked with my head down,” she says, “but my curiosity was strong.” She often searched the ground for low-lying treasures. Hendrickson’s interest in finding things turned into an exciting job. Now she is a field **paleontologist**. As a paleontologist, Hendrickson gets to spend a lot of her time exploring—and digging. Her searches for new discoveries have taken her to countries around the world.

Hendrickson became famous after making a gigantic discovery in August 1990. After a long day of digging in South Dakota, she **stumbled upon** one of the largest and most complete specimens of a T. rex skeleton ever found. “It was as if she was just waiting to be discovered,” Hendrickson says. “It took 67 million years, but we finally got to her.”

Finding the Fossil

How did this **fossil** hunter discover this ancient natural wonder? It all started with a flat tire. While others from her digging team went to get the tire fixed, Hendrickson decided to explore a nearby cliff with her golden retriever, Gypsy. She walked around with her eyes to the ground, as usual. Suddenly, she noticed a few pieces of bone. Then she looked up. She **inspected** the rocky cliffs above her head and saw three dinosaur backbones. She quickly headed back to the team to tell them about her exciting discovery.

Over a period of three weeks, the paleontologist and her team were able to uncover the huge dinosaur fossil. The team decided to name the dino fossil Sue, after Hendrickson. How does Hendrickson feel about finding Sue? “She is, I am certain, the greatest discovery I will ever make,” she said.

Sue Hendrickson stands next to the skull and teeth of the T. rex skeleton before they were removed from the cliff.



Diving for Treasure

Hendrickson's adventurous spirit and curiosity about the past have taken her to extreme places to do her work. When she's not digging for bones, she's diving for sunken treasure. She has been working with a team in Egypt to find the palace of Cleopatra. The palace sank underwater during a fifth century earthquake. "Sharing these finds with the world is the biggest thrill," says Hendrickson.

Hendrickson also explored a 400-year-old sunken ship in the waters near the Philippines. The ship was called *San Diego*. It was a Spanish ship that was used for trade and battle. In 1600, the ship sank to the bottom of the South China Sea. Hendrickson was part of the team that helped make the *San Diego* famous again.

In 2004, Hendrickson joined a team of divers in Egypt to find an ancient sunken city. She also was part of a dive in Cuba to explore a ship that sank in 1714.

What advice does Hendrickson have for kids who want to get their fingers dirty? "Spend some time volunteering out in the field with professionals," she recommends. "And focus on school. It will equip you to learn on your own."



Sue Hendrickson explores an ancient shipwreck.

Think and Compare

1. What is a paleontologist?
2. What generalization can you make about Sue Hendrickson's life?
3. Do you think you would like traveling as much as Sue Hendrickson does? Why or why not?
4. What is the value of the discoveries—fossils in amber, "Bambi," "snottites"—described in these selections?





Test Strategy

On My Own

The answer is not in the selection. Use what you know to form your answers for questions 4 and 5.

Out on a Limb

Rain forests are one of Earth's last frontiers. They are filled with plants and animals that are rarely—if ever—seen by humans. According to one estimate, more than half of all life forms on Earth live in tropical rain forests. Some scientists believe there may be many millions more.

Scientists are now focusing on the forest canopy. The canopy is the highest part of the forest. It is a network of leaves, vines, and branches that forms a world within a world. It functions differently from other parts of the forest because of its height and exposure to sunlight. This world has been difficult to study because of the great height of rain forest trees. New techniques and equipment are changing that. The canopy crane is one important example.

The canopy crane is an ordinary construction crane equipped with a special platform. The crane lifts the platform above the treetops and then gently lowers it into the canopy. Scientists use the platform as a base of operations for their studies. One scientist described this experience as “like landing on the moon.” Scientists agree that there is much to learn about this unique place that is right here on Earth.



A canopy crane lowers researchers from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute into the canopy of a rain forest in Panama.

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. Why are rain forests considered one of Earth's last frontiers?

- A Travel is prohibited in most places.
- B Scientists have been unable to study many of the organisms that live there.
- C The forest canopy keeps scientists out.
- D Scientists have little interest in studying the plants and animals of the rain forest.

2. What condition helps make the canopy different from other parts of the rain forest?

- A People do not live there.
- B Animals cannot reach it.
- C It is higher and receives more sunlight.
- D It contains no plants.

3. The canopy crane allows scientists to

- A work from a platform that has been lowered into the treetops.
- B parachute into the canopy from above, like astronauts.
- C remove trees more easily.
- D avoid the dangerous animals on the forest floor.

4. What do you think is the most interesting thing about the work of these scientists?

5. Do you think it is important for scientists to continue to study the plant and animal life in the rain forests of the world? Why or why not?

Tip

Use what you know.



Write to a Prompt

Sometimes scientists must go to new and unfamiliar places. Write a personal essay about a time when you had to go somewhere new or face something new. Express your opinion about what you experienced.



I summed up my opinion in the last paragraph.

Change Can Be Good

I grew up in a small town. I knew just about every person there, and they knew me. I was very happy there. Why would I want to leave? Then one day my mother said we were moving. She had a great new job, in a city a thousand miles away.

The city was very different. I didn't know anybody. I didn't know my way around. We lived in an apartment, not a house. People spoke with a different accent. Even the food was different.

Well, I was miserable for about three days. Then I met my new neighbor, a kid my age. He introduced me to his friends. When school started, I met even more new friends. I learned my way around, and there was a lot to do. I decided I liked most of the food.

I still miss my old town and my old friends. But I can go back for a visit, so now I figure I have two home towns!

Writing Prompt

Some people welcome new experiences. Others like things to stay the same. Either way, we all have to face new things in life. Write a personal essay about a time when you had to face something new. Describe the situation, how you felt before, and how you felt after.

Writer's Checklist

- Ask yourself, who will read my essay?
- Think about your purpose for writing.
- Plan your writing before beginning.
- Use details to support your opinion.
- Be sure you state your opinion and give reasons for it.
- Use your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation.