

## Lesson Plan

### Jurassic Jumble

**Book:** *Archaeopteryx*

**Series:** Finding Dinosaurs

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students study how fossils influence the way paleontologists think about the distant past and understand the animals that lived at that time.

### Supplies

- *Archaeopteryx* book
- Jurassic Jumble worksheet (attached)

### Before the Activity

Read through the *Archaeopteryx* book, or assign it to students to read it on their own. Print a Jurassic Jumble worksheet for each student.

### Activity

Give each student a Jurassic Jumble worksheet. Explain that this worksheet contains facts from the *Archaeopteryx* book, but important words have been left out. Students must use the clues to unscramble the letters and form the words to fill the blanks.

### Evaluation

Give each student one point for each correct answer, for a total of up to 20 points.

### Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 5 (RI 5.3; RI 5.4) and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard D, grades 5–8.

## Jurassic Jumble

1. tenseolmi

Workers found the first Archaeopteryx fossil inside a block of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. niermt dip

The first Archaeopteryx fossil was a feather \_\_\_\_\_ in stone.

3. lootgonalispet

Richard Owen was a \_\_\_\_\_ who studied the specimen and thought it was a bird.

4. trecyun

For almost a \_\_\_\_\_ afterward, most scientists thought it was a bird, too.

5. invaa

Today, scientists call it an \_\_\_\_\_ dinosaur.

6. aymGren

Scientists have found more than 10 Archaeopteryx fossils in southern \_\_\_\_\_.

7. pilagorhatchi

The first fossil, found in 1861, was given the name *Archaeopteryx* \_\_\_\_\_.

8. ivcraaba

A new species, called *Archaeopteryx* \_\_\_\_\_, was discovered in 1992.

9. niespcesm

Scientists study fossil \_\_\_\_\_ to learn about Archaeopteryx's bone structure.

10. teesabbnor

Archaeopteryx's \_\_\_\_\_ was larger and flatter than that of modern birds.

11. destorpho

Archaeopteryx bones are similar to those of meat-eating dinosaurs called \_\_\_\_\_.

12. cafulru

However, Archaeopteryx had a \_\_\_\_\_, a bone that only birds have.

13. merymaliasct

Scientists believe Archaeopteryx had \_\_\_\_\_ flight feathers as well.

14. innsottaarli

Because of its similarities to birds, Archaeopteryx is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ fossil.

15. tencoras

Scientists today believe Archaeopteryx was more like a cousin of birds than a direct \_\_\_\_\_.

16. susJiacr

Archaeopteryx lived during the Late \_\_\_\_\_ period.

17. neurtspecinnot

At this time, the \_\_\_\_\_ Pangea was just beginning to split up.

18. ixnettc

Scientists do not know why Archaeopteryx became \_\_\_\_\_ while birds survived.

19. oviennnetrm

Animals often become extinct because something about their \_\_\_\_\_ changes.

20. toeraCscue

By the Late \_\_\_\_\_ period, birds had become common around the world.

## Jurassic Jumble ANSWER KEY

1. tenseolmi

Workers found the first Archaeopteryx fossil inside a block of **limestone**.

2. niermt dip

The first Archaeopteryx fossil was a feather **imprinted** in stone.

3. lootgonalispet

Richard Owen was a **paleontologist** who studied the specimen and thought it was a bird.

4. trecyun

For almost a **century** afterward, most scientists thought it was a bird, too.

5. invaa

Today, scientists call it an **avian** dinosaur.

6. aymGren

Scientists have found more than 10 Archaeopteryx fossils in southern **Germany**.

7. pilagorhatchi

The first fossil, found in 1861, was given the name *Archaeopteryx lithographica*.

8. ivcraaba

A new species, called *Archaeopteryx bavarica*, was discovered in 1992.

9. niespcesm

Scientists study fossil **specimens** to learn about Archaeopteryx's bone structure.

10. teesabbnor

Archaeopteryx's **breastbone** was larger and flatter than that of modern birds.

11. destorpho

Archaeopteryx bones are similar to those of meat-eating dinosaurs called **theropods**.

12. cafulru

However, Archaeopteryx had a **furcula**, a bone that only birds have.

13. merymaliasct

Scientists believe Archaeopteryx had **asymmetrical** flight feathers as well.

14. innsottaarli

Because of its similarities to birds, Archaeopteryx is considered a **transitional** fossil.

15. tencoras

Scientists today believe Archaeopteryx was more like a cousin of birds than a direct **ancestor**.

16. susJiacr

Archaeopteryx lived during the Late **Jurassic** period.

17. neurtspecinnot

At this time, the **supercontinent** Pangea was just beginning to split up.

18. ixnettc

Scientists do not know why Archaeopteryx became **extinct** while birds survived.

19. oviennnetrm

Animals often become extinct because something about their **environment** changes.

20. toeraCscue

By the Late **Cretaceous** period, birds had become common around the world.