Lesson Plan

Jurassic Jeopardy

Book: *Diplodocus*
Series: Finding Dinosaurs
Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students demonstrate comprehension of a text about dinosaurs and Earth's history by recalling specific details, events, people, and terms described in the text.

Supplies

- *Diplodocus* book
- Whiteboard
- Jurassic Jeopardy Clues (attached)

Before the Activity

Read through the *Diplodocus* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Draw a Jeopardy-style chart on the whiteboard, like this:

People	Body Parts	Timeline	Vocabulary	Stats
200	200	200	200	200
400	400	400	400	400
600	600	600	600	600
800	800	800	800	800
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Activity

Split the students into three teams: Early Jurassic, Mid Jurassic, and Late Jurassic. Write the team names at the top of the whiteboard.

On each team's turn, team members get to choose a category and a number from the chart on the whiteboard. You will read the clue that goes with that box. Each clue will be a statement based on information from the *Diplodocus* book. Students on the team must create a question that this statement answers. For example, if the clue is "A huge continent that existed in the distant past and later split apart into the present continents," the question could be "What is the supercontinent Pangaea?"

If the team answers the clue correctly, add the number of points in that clue's box to the team's score on the whiteboard. Then the team can choose another clue to answer. Boxes with higher numbers will give students more points, but the clues in those boxes are also more difficult. Each team can continue to choose clues until team members answer one incorrectly. Then it is the next team's turn to choose a category and a number.

Evaluation

The team with the most points when all the clues have been read wins. For a shorter game, play until one team reaches 5,000 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 5 (RI 5.1; RI 5.4) and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard D, grades 5–8.

Jurassic Jeopardy Clues

People

200. This businessman made plaster casts of Diplodocus and donated them to museums around the world. (Answer: Who was Andrew Carnegie?)
400. This paleontologist created the name Diplodocus. (Answer: Who was Othniel Charles Marsh?)
600. This director of the Carnegie Museum assembled a team of fossil hunters who went to Wyoming to look for Diplodocus fossils. (Answer: Who was William Holland?)
800. This scientist, along with Samuel Wendell Williston, found bones from a Diplodocus's leg and tail in 1877. (Answer: Who was Benjamin Mudge?)
1000. This scientist discovered a Diplodocus leg in 1898. (Answer: Who was Henry Fairfield Osborn?)

Body Parts

200. This body part was strangely small compared to the rest of the dinosaur's body. (Answer: What is Diplodocus's head?)
400. This body part had at least 15 vertebrae. (Answer: What is Diplodocus's neck?)
600. This body part could make a loud crack when Diplodocus moved it. (Answer: What is Diplodocus's tail?)
800. These body parts were shaped like pegs. (Answer: What are Diplodocus's teeth?)
1000. These body parts were probably made of keratin. (Answer: What are Diplodocus's spines?)

Timeline

200. This was the year when the first Diplodocus fossils were found. (Answer: What happened in 1877?)
400. This was the year when Andrew Carnegie read about Diplodocus in the newspaper. (Answer: What happened in 1898?)
600. This was the year when fossil hunters found a huge dinosaur foot bone in Wyoming. (Answer: What happened in 1899?)
800. This was the year when fossilized Diplodocus skin was found. (Answer: What happened in 1992?)
1000. This was when fossils of Diplodocus footprints were found. (Answer: What happened in the 1930s?)

Vocabulary

200. Animals that eat only plants. (Answer: What does *herbivores* mean?)
400. Small bones that link together to form the backbone. (Answer: What does *vertebrae* mean?)
600. Rocks that are formed when particles settle to the bottom of a body of water, build up in layers, and turn to stone. (Answer: What does *sedimentary* mean?)

800. A group of giant, plant-eating dinosaurs with long necks, long tails, small heads, and sturdy limbs. (Answer: What does *sauropods* mean?)
1000. Hard protein that horns and fingernails are made from. (Answer: What does *keratin* mean?)

Stats
200. Number of vertebrae in a Diplodocus tail. (Answer: What is 80?)
400. How long Diplodocus could be. (Answer: What is 90 feet?)
600. How much Diplodocus weighed. (Answer: What is 10 to 20 tons?)
800. How often Diplodocus could grow a new tooth. (Answer: What is every 35 days?)
1000. Range of years when Diplodocus lived on Earth. (Answer: What is 155 to 150 million years ago?)