Ancient ‘Mothra’ Fossil Unveils Wonders of Early Life

Description

Scientists have found a new creature from the Cambrian period. Its name is *Mosura fentoni*. This small animal is about the size of a finger. It has three eyes, claws, and flappy limbs. It was discovered in Canada’s Burgess Shale, a famous fossil site.

Mosura is part of a group called radiodonts. This group also includes *Anomalocaris*, a larger creature known for its sharp limbs and teeth. *Mosura* had a round mouth for eating and paddle-like limbs for swimming. It also had a tail with 16 sections that had gills for breathing.

Scientists are not sure why *Mosura* needed so many gills. It might have lived in areas with less oxygen or it could have been very active. The shape of *Mosura* earned it the nickname “sea-moth.” Even though it is called a moth, it is not close to real moths.

This creature helps scientists learn about life from more than 500 million years ago. Many fossils were found in Yoho and Kootenay National Parks, areas known for well-preserved sea creatures.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Cambrian** /ˈkeɪm.bri.ən/ (adjective): Relating to a major division of the geological time scale spanning from about 541 to 485 million years ago.
2. **Creature** /ˈkriː.tʃər/ (noun): A living being especially an animal.
3. **Fossil** /ˈfɒs.ɪl/ (noun): The remains or impression of a prehistoric organism preserved in petrified form or as a mold or cast in rock.
4. **Gills** /gɪlz/ (noun): The respiratory organ of aquatic animals enabling them to extract oxygen from water.
5. **Active** /ˈæktɪv/ (adjective): Engaging in action; lively and vigorous.
6. **Preserved** /prɪˈzɜːrvd/ (verb): To maintain or keep in good condition; to protect from loss or harm.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Where was the new creature Mosura fentoni discovered?

   Option: Canada’s Burgess Shale

Option: Yoho National Park
Option: Kootenay National Park
Option: Yellowstone National Park

2. Which group does Mosura belong to?

Option: Radiodonts
Option: Arthropods
Option: Mammals
Option: Reptiles

3. What earned Mosura the nickname “sea-moth”?

Option: Its shape
Option: Its size
Option: Its claws
Option: Its eyes

4. How many gills did Mosura have?

Option: Multiple
Option: One
Option: Two
Option: None

5. What is the size comparison of Mosura fentoni?

Option: Size of a finger
Option: Size of a hand
Option: Size of a palm
Option: Size of a foot

6. Where were many fossils found related to Mosura fentoni?

Option: Yoho and Kootenay National Parks
Option: Yellowstone National Park
Option: Everglades National Park
Option: Grand Canyon National Park

True-False

7. Scientists are certain about the reason Mosura fentoni needed many gills.

8. Mosura fentoni is a close relative of real moths.

9. Mosura fentoni was discovered in the Cambrian period.

10. Mosura fentoni had three eyes.

11. The Burgess Shale is located in the United States.

12. Mosura fentoni has paddle-like limbs for swimming.

Gap-Fill

13. The creature Mosura fentoni was discovered in the Cambrian period, more than _____ million years ago.

14. Mosura fentoni had a round mouth for eating and paddle-like limbs for _____.

15. The tail of Mosura fentoni had _____ sections with gills for breathing.

16. The discovery of Mosura fentoni helps scientists learn about life from more than _____ million years ago.

17. Many well-preserved sea creatures were found in Yoho and _____ National Parks.

18. Mosura fentoni might have needed many gills because it lived in areas with less _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Canada’s Burgess Shale 2. Radiodonts 3. Its shape 4. Multiple 5. Size of a finger 6. Yoho and Kootenay National Parks
True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. True
Gap-Fill: 13. 500 14. swimming 15. 16 17. Kootenay 18. oxygen

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL1

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