



# Excavation Workers Discover Dinosaur Footprints in England

## Description

In England, quarry workers have unearthed the clawed footprints of a massive predator, along with the sunken tracks of other dinosaurs. Paleontologists are hailing this discovery as one of the most important in Britain in almost thirty years. Last summer, in a quarry in Oxfordshire, approximately 60 miles northwest of London, researchers revealed a trail of five distinct prints. These tracks date back to the Middle Jurassic period, roughly 166 million years ago, showcasing the movement of both herbivores and carnivores in the region.

During the Middle Jurassic period, Oxfordshire was not the grassy landscape we see today but rather resembled the humid climate of the Florida Keys, with lagoons and muddy swamps. The quarry in Oxfordshire has been a hotspot for paleontological discoveries since 1997, earning itself the nickname “dinosaur highway.” With over 40 sets of footprints spanning nearly 200 yards, these new findings have transformed it into one of the largest dinosaur fossil sites globally. Emma Nicholls, a vertebrate paleontologist and collections manager at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, emphasized the significance of these recent findings, proving that there is still much more to learn about these ancient creatures.

The discovery itself was serendipitous, as quarry workers initially overlooked the abnormality while clearing clay. Mark Stanway, the quarry manager, described the first sign of a dinosaur as merely a hump in the ground. This recent finding underscores the ongoing importance of exploration and discovery in the field of paleontology. Ms. Nicholls expressed her excitement, highlighting the endless possibilities for uncovering new evidence of prehistoric life. This discovery serves as a reminder of the rich history waiting to be unraveled beneath our feet.

## Vocabulary List:

1. **Unearthed** /ʌn'ɜːrθd/ (verb): To discover something by digging it out of the ground.
2. **Significance** /sɪg'nɪfɪkəns/ (noun): The quality of being worthy of attention; importance.
3. **Predator** /'preɪ.də.tər/ (noun): An animal that naturally preys on others.
4. **Herbivores** /'hɜːr.bɪ.vɔːr/ (noun): Animals that primarily eat plants.
5. **Paleontologists** /,peɪ.li.ɒn'tɒl.ə.dʒɪsts/ (noun): Scientists who study fossils to understand the history of life on Earth.
6. **Exploration** /,eks.plɔː'reɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area to learn about it.

## Comprehension Questions



### Multiple Choice

1. Where in England were the clawed footprints of a massive predator unearthed?  
Option: Oxfordshire  
Option: London  
Option: Liverpool  
Option: Manchester
  
2. Which period do the unearthed footprints date back to?  
Option: Middle Jurassic period  
Option: Cretaceous period  
Option: Triassic period  
Option: Paleogene period
  
3. What transformation has the recent discovery brought to the quarry in Oxfordshire?  
Option: It has become a desert  
Option: It has become a river  
Option: It has become one of the largest dinosaur fossil sites globally  
Option: It has become a forest
  
4. Who is the collections manager at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History?  
Option: Emma Nicholls  
Option: Mark Stanway  
Option: Ratan Tata  
Option: John Smith
  
5. How many sets of footprints are discovered spanning nearly 200 yards at the quarry?  
Option: 10 sets  
Option: 20 sets  
Option: 30 sets  
Option: 40 sets
  
6. What did Mark Stanway initially describe as the first sign of a dinosaur at the quarry site?  
Option: A tree stump  
Option: A hump in the ground  
Option: A rock formation  
Option: A buried log



### True-False

7. Oxfordshire during the Middle Jurassic period had a grassy landscape similar to today.
8. The quarry in Oxfordshire has been a hotspot for paleontological discoveries only since 2020.
9. Emma Nicholls emphasized the insignificance of the recent paleontological discoveries.
10. The ongoing importance of exploration and discovery in paleontology was highlighted in the text.
11. Mark Stanway discovered the clawed footprints of the massive predator in the quarry.
12. The recent findings proved that there is nothing new to learn about ancient creatures.

### Gap-Fill

13. The tracks date back to the Middle Jurassic period, roughly \_\_\_\_\_ million years ago.
14. Emma Nicholls is a \_\_\_\_\_ paleontologist and collections manager at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.
15. The nickname given to the Oxfordshire quarry is \_\_\_\_\_ highway.
16. The quarry has over \_\_\_\_\_ sets of footprints spanning nearly 200 yards.
17. Mark Stanway initially described the first sign of a dinosaur as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ground.
18. The recent discovery underscores the ongoing importance of \_\_\_\_\_ in paleontology.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Oxfordshire 2. Middle Jurassic period 3. It has become one of the largest dinosaur fossil sites globally 4. Emma Nicholls 5. 40 sets 6. A hump in the ground

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 166 14. vertebrate 15. dinosaur 16. 40 17. hump 18. exploration



## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What are weaknesses in a system known as?  
Option: Strengths  
Option: Capabilities  
Option: Vulnerabilities  
Option: Opportunities
2. Which term refers to the movement of individuals from one place to another?  
Option: Adaptation  
Option: Migration  
Option: Integration  
Option: Exploration
3. What term describes a process where one event triggers a series of similar events?  
Option: Crossover  
Option: Chronology  
Option: Succession  
Option: Cascade
4. What is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment called?  
Option: Habitat  
Option: Ecosystem  
Option: Territory  
Option: Environment
5. What do you call an animal that preys on others?  
Option: Preparer  
Option: Predator  
Option: Provider  
Option: Protector
6. Which term refers to something that is complete and thorough?  
Option: Superficial  
Option: Fragmentary  
Option: Comprehensive  
Option: Limited
7. What is an investigation into a matter or situation called?



- Option: Probe
- Option: Search
- Option: Research
- Option: Survey

8. What term describes a meeting often a chance one between people or groups?

- Option: Interaction
- Option: Collide
- Option: Encounter
- Option: Impede

9. Which term relates to the combined effects of temperature and salinity on seawater density?

- Option: Thermohaline
- Option: Halothermic
- Option: Temperature
- Option: Salinity

10. What is the importance or meaning of something referred to as?

- Option: Triviality
- Option: Inconsequence
- Option: Significance
- Option: Insignificance

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. Being \_\_\_\_\_ means acting in anticipation of future problems or opportunities.
12. The archaeologists \_\_\_\_\_ ancient artifacts at the excavation site.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of seawater varies around the world.
14. Starting a new business is always a risky \_\_\_\_\_.
15. By repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of safety the supervisor ensured that all workers followed the guidelines.
16. Scientists use \_\_\_\_\_ to remotely monitor data from satellites.
17. The lion is considered a top \_\_\_\_\_ in the savannah.
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ of different technologies has led to the development of innovative



products.

19. The security breach resulted from a successful network \_\_\_\_\_ by hackers.

20. During their hiking trip they hoped to \_\_\_\_\_ rare wildlife.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The process of combining different elements into a harmonious whole was known as .
22. Animals that primarily feed on plants and vegetation are categorized as .
23. Scientists who study the history of life on Earth through fossils are referred to as .
24. A journey or voyage undertaken for a specific purpose or mission is called an .
25. The long- sequel to the popular movie generated a lot of buzz among fans.
26. The artist's of the classic painting brought a fresh perspective to the original work.
27. The complex plot of the thriller movie was full of and unexpected twists.
28. Taking a approach to problem-solving can help prevent issues before they arise.
29. The children's book was filled with colorful illustrations and characters.
30. The detective needed to the true identity of the suspect.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Vulnerabilities 2. Migration 3. Cascade 4. Ecosystem 5. Predator 6. Comprehensive 7. Probe 8. Encounter 9. Thermohaline 10. Significance

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Proactive 12. Unearthed 13. Salinity 14. Venture 15. Emphasizing 16. Telemetry 17. Predator 18. Convergence 19. Penetration 20. Encounter

**Matching sentence:** 1. Integration 2. Herbivores 3. Paleontologists 4. Expedition 5. Anticipated 6. Reimagining 7. Intrigue 8. Proactive 9. Whimsical 10. Ascertain

## CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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**Author**

aimeeyoung99

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