



Newly Discovered Creature: Earth's Largest Land Animal

Description

Millions of years ago, Earth was dominated by enormous creatures. Massive flying reptiles known as pterosaurs, with wingspans reaching 12 metres, soared through the skies. Giant dragonflies, comparable in size to modern widescreen televisions, buzzed in the foliage, while enormous sauropod dinosaurs, stretching as long as a jumbo jet, browsed on treetops.

Among these giants was the Cretaceous titan, *Patagotitan mayorum*, which is considered the largest and most complete dinosaur discovered to date. Weighing 57 tonnes and measuring 37 metres from nose to tail, *Patagotitan* belonged to the titanosaur family, known for their long necks and thick limbs.

Although species like *Diplodocus* and *Brachiosaurus* have been known for over a century, *Patagotitan* was only unearthed in 2010 in Argentina. This discovery is part of a larger trend, as palaeontologists now find an average of 50 new dinosaur species yearly, bringing the total to around 700. The increase in discoveries is made possible by more researchers in regions rich in fossils.

Patagotitan was found by farmworker Aurelio Hernandez in Patagonia, where remains of several individuals from a herd were located. The region's unique geology allows for easy fossil extraction. Over five years, more than 200 bones were collected, enabling scientists to reconstruct a detailed skeleton.

Despite their enormous size, the reasons for the titanosaurs' incredible dimensions remain unclear. One theory suggests that their vast size helped them adapt to their herbivorous diet, allowing them to efficiently process hard-to-digest plants. In its lifetime, a *Patagotitan* would have consumed around 120 kilograms of food daily.

As for reproduction, it is believed that *Patagotitan* laid eggs in nests, relying on geothermal heat from volcanic soil for incubation. After hatching, the young faced numerous predators, resulting in only a small number reaching adulthood.

In terms of survival, adult *Patagotitan* faced little risk from predators due to their sheer size. Even formidable carnivores like *Tyrannotitan*, a 12-metre predator, would typically avoid confronting such a giant. As discoveries continue, it is unlikely that another dinosaur will surpass *Patagotitan* in size, cementing its place as a remarkable part of Earth's prehistoric history.

Vocabulary List:

1. **wingspans** //ˈwɪŋ.spænz// (noun): distance from one wingtip to the other
2. **unearthed** //ˌʌnˈɜːθt// (verb): found in the ground after being buried
3. **palaeontologists** //ˌpeɪlɪənˈtɒlədʒɪsts// (noun): scientists who study ancient life and fossils
4. **geothermal** //ˌdʒiːoʊˈθɜːrməl// (adjective): heat that comes from inside the Earth



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5. **incubation** //ˌɪŋkjəˈbeɪʃən// (noun): keeping eggs warm so babies can grow
6. **formidable** //ˈfɔrmɪdəbl// (adjective): very strong and difficult to defeat

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Which creature is considered the largest and most complete dinosaur discovered to date?
- Option: Diplodocus
 - Option: Brachiosaurus
 - Option: Patagotitan mayorum
 - Option: Tyrannotitan
2. In what year was Patagotitan unearthed?
- Option: 2005
 - Option: 2010
 - Option: 2015
 - Option: 2020
3. What is the estimated weight of Patagotitan?
- Option: 30 tonnes
 - Option: 57 tonnes
 - Option: 75 tonnes
 - Option: 100 tonnes
4. How long did Patagotitan measure?
- Option: 25 metres
 - Option: 30 metres
 - Option: 37 metres
 - Option: 45 metres
5. Where was Patagotitan discovered?
- Option: Argentina
 - Option: Brazil
 - Option: Chile
 - Option: Mexico



6. What is the average number of new dinosaur species discovered yearly?

- Option: 20
- Option: 30
- Option: 50
- Option: 100

True-False

- 7. Pterosaurs had wingspans that could reach up to 15 metres.
- 8. Patagotitan is part of the titanosaur family.
- 9. Geothermal heat from volcanic soil was used for incubating Patagotitan eggs.
- 10. Patagotitan had a herbivorous diet.
- 11. Farmworker Aurelio Hernandez discovered Patagotitan in the Andes mountains.
- 12. Adult Patagotitan faced significant risks from predators due to their large size.

Gap-Fill

- 13. Patagotitan weighed _____ tonnes.
- 14. Patagotitan's length measured _____ metres from nose to tail.
- 15. Paleontologists discover an average of _____ new dinosaur species each year.
- 16. Patagotitan was discovered in _____ (country).
- 17. During its lifetime, a Patagotitan would have consumed around _____ kilograms of food daily.
- 18. The discovery of Patagotitan took place in _____ (region).

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Patagotitan mayorum 2. 2010 3. 57 tonnes 4. 37 metres 5. Argentina 6. 50

True-False: 7. False



8. True 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 57 14. 37 15. 50 16. Argentina 17. 120 18. Patagonia

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is commonly measured in birds to determine their size?
Option: Length
Option: Wingspans
Option: Weight
Option: Height
2. Who studies fossils and ancient life forms?
Option: Geologists
Option: Archaeologists
Option: Palaeontologists
Option: Biologists
3. What type of energy is derived from heat stored in the Earth?
Option: Solar
Option: Wind
Option: Geothermal
Option: Nuclear
4. What process is used to maintain the right conditions for eggs to hatch?
Option: Incubation
Option: Gestation
Option: Maturation
Option: Hibernation
5. Which word describes something that inspires fear or respect due to its size or ability?
Option: Diminutive
Option: Formidable
Option: Tedious
Option: Inept
6. What term describes a sudden burst of light or energy?
Option: Dull
Option: Flicker
Option: Flare



Option: Dim

7. What instrument is used to observe the solar corona?

- Option: Telescope
- Option: Spectrometer
- Option: Coronagraph
- Option: Microscope

8. What word describes the process of forcefully expelling something?

- Option: Attraction
- Option: Retention
- Option: Ejection
- Option: Absorption

9. What type of material is used in electronics to control current?

- Option: Insulator
- Option: Conductor
- Option: Semiconductor
- Option: Resistor

10. What term describes working jointly with others on a project?

- Option: Competition
- Option: Collaboration
- Option: Isolation
- Option: Independence

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

11. The spacecraft returned to Earth in a protective _____.
12. There was a constant _____ of energy from the solar panels.
13. He exceeded the pain _____ and could no longer endure the discomfort.
14. Scientists aim to _____ the experiment to verify their results.
15. His behavior was considered _____ because it violated professional standards.
16. The office's _____ to the conference room makes meetings more convenient.
17. The research findings _____ as breakthrough developments in the field.



18. The project is considered _____ due to its feasibility in current circumstances.
19. The amplifier _____ the sound from the microphone for a larger audience.
20. Regular _____ is essential to keep the machinery in good working order.

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

21. The organization of the event was so scattered that guests were confused about the schedule.
22. The mountain loomed large and steep, posing a great challenge to climbers.
23. The eggs were kept in a warm environment until they hatched into chicks.
24. Multiple disciplines worked together on the project to achieve a successful outcome.
25. Experts devoted their careers to the study of ancient organisms through fossil records.
26. The rocket experienced a rapid release of fuel during its launch procedure.
27. The power plant harnessed the Earth's heat to generate electricity for thousands of homes.
28. Birds vary significantly in size, and their wingspans can indicate their flight capabilities.
29. The constant change in data streams required real-time adjustments to the system.
30. These materials are crucial for creating devices such as smartphones and computers.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Wingspans 2. Palaeontologists 3. Geothermal 4. Incubation 5. Formidable 6. Flare 7. Coronagraph 8. Ejection 9. Semiconductor 10. Collaboration

Gap-Fill: 11. capsule 12. flux 13. threshold 14. replicate 15. unethical 16. adjacency 17. emerged 18. viable 19. amplifies 20. maintenance

Matching sentence: 1. haphazard 2. formidable 3. incubation 4. collaboration 5. palaeontologists 6. ejection 7. geothermal 8. wingspans 9. flux 10. semiconductor

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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