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Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	• Author's Purpose • Cause and Effect • Monitor and Fix Up	• Captions • Glossary

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Science

Science

Earth Science

Finding a Dinosaur Named Sue

by Beth Lewis

Vocabulary

auction

evidence

excavate

fossils

skilled

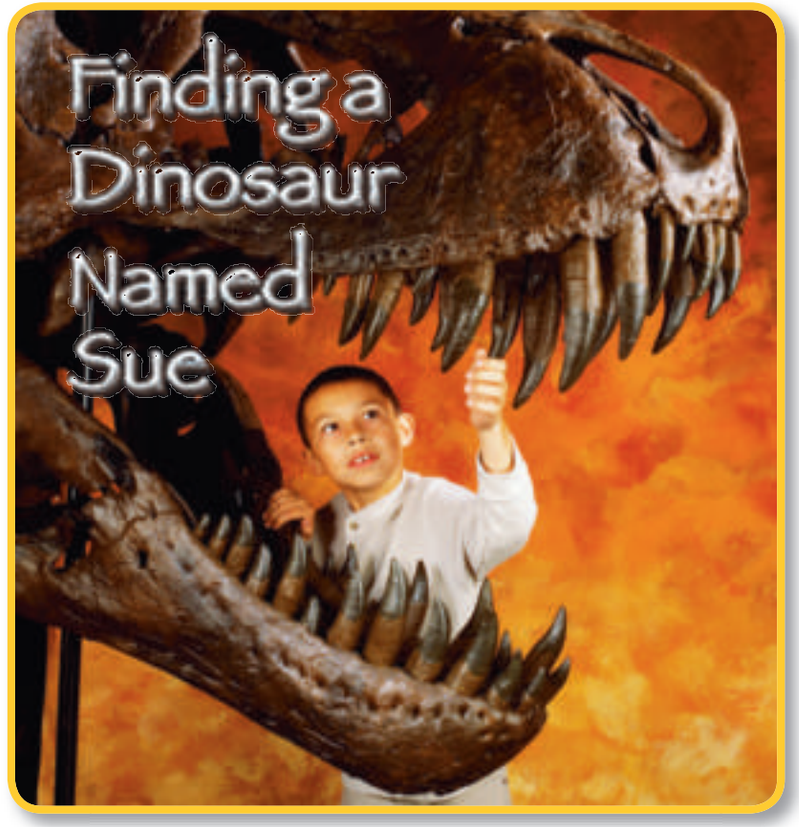
skull

soil

wishbone

Word count: 615

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.



by Beth Lewis

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Sue Hendrickson discovered the bones of a tyrannosaurus rex.

In the summer of 1990, Sue Hendrickson made a big discovery on a ranch in South Dakota near the Cheyenne River.

One day, Sue saw some small pieces of bone on the ground. She climbed a cliff to see where the **fossils,** the remains of ancient animals, had come from. There, Sue found huge dinosaur bones!

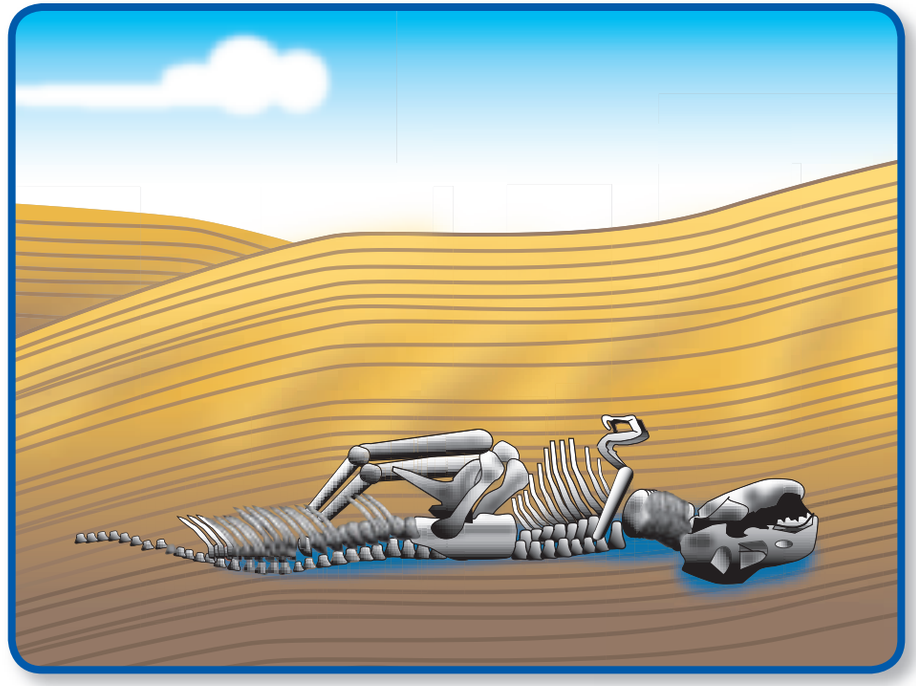
Sue thought the bones were from a tyrannosaurus rex. She was right. The rest of the team saw what she found. They named it "Sue," because Sue Hendrickson found the dinosaur bones.

Sue got buried by sand and soil after she died.

The dinosaur named Sue died about 65 million years ago. As time went by, her bones were covered with sand and **soil.** The sand and soil became rock, and Sue's bones became fossils. More time passed. The rock got worn away. Then Sue's bones were found.

It took the team only 17 days to **excavate** Sue's bones. That was because all the bones were found in one place. They used many tools, such as shovels, picks, and rock hammers. When they got closer to the bones, they used smaller tools.

The team found more than 200 bones. That made Sue the most complete T. rex ever to be discovered!



Over millions of years, Sue's bones turned into fossils.

A museum in Chicago bought Sue.

After Sue was excavated, many people disagreed about who owned her. It took about five years for the courts to make a decision. They decided that Sue's owner was the rancher who owned the land where Sue was found.

The rancher decided to sell Sue at an **auction.** The auction took place in 1997. The Field Museum in Chicago paid 8 million dollars for Sue at the auction.

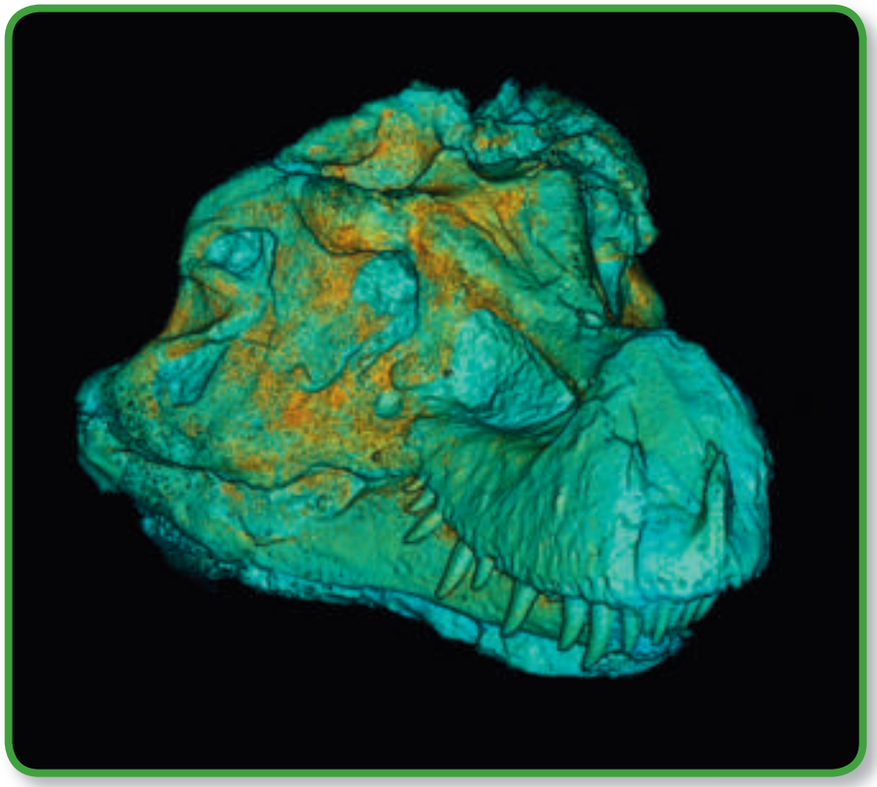
There was a lot of work to do before people could see Sue at the museum. A team of people worked to prepare Sue's bones and put her together. These people were **skilled** at their jobs. Their goal was to clean each fossil bone and glue the broken bones together. It was like putting together a very big puzzle!

A tool called an "air scribe" is used to remove rock from the bones.

It took seven people more than 3,500 hours to clean and put together Sue's **skull.** When they were done, it measured five feet long. It weighed more than 600 pounds!

The team found that Sue's mouth had 58 large, sharp teeth when she was living. The teeth were between seven inches and one foot long!

The team worked more on Sue's skull than on any other part.

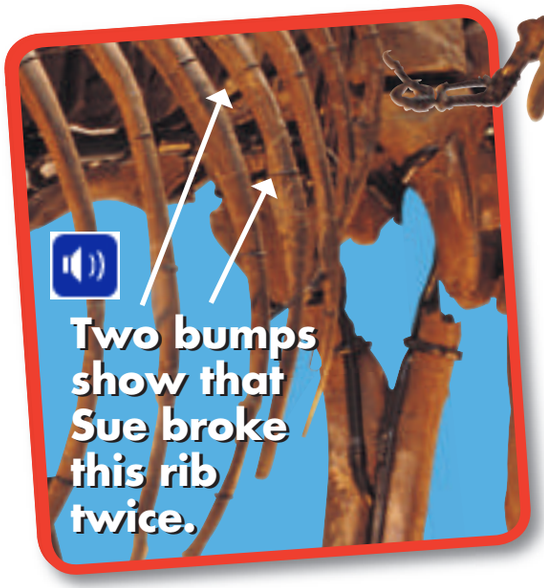


Sue had a good sense of smell.

Scientists took a special x-ray of Sue's skull, called a CT image. They found that a large part of Sue's brain was used for smelling. That told the scientists that a tyrannosaurus rex had a very good sense of smell.

Scientists learned that both of Sue's eyes faced forward. That told them that a tyrannosaurus rex could see how far away something to eat was.

Scientists found that Sue had a **wishbone.** This may mean that dinosaurs are related to birds, but it does not prove it. There has to be more **evidence** before we can know for sure.



Scientists took x-rays and learned that Sue had broken ribs. The x-rays showed that Sue's ribs had two bumps on them. Scientists know that a broken bone often heals by growing new bone. The new bone causes a bump to form.

Can you see Sue's wishbone in this picture?

Sue is one of the most popular displays at the Field Museum.

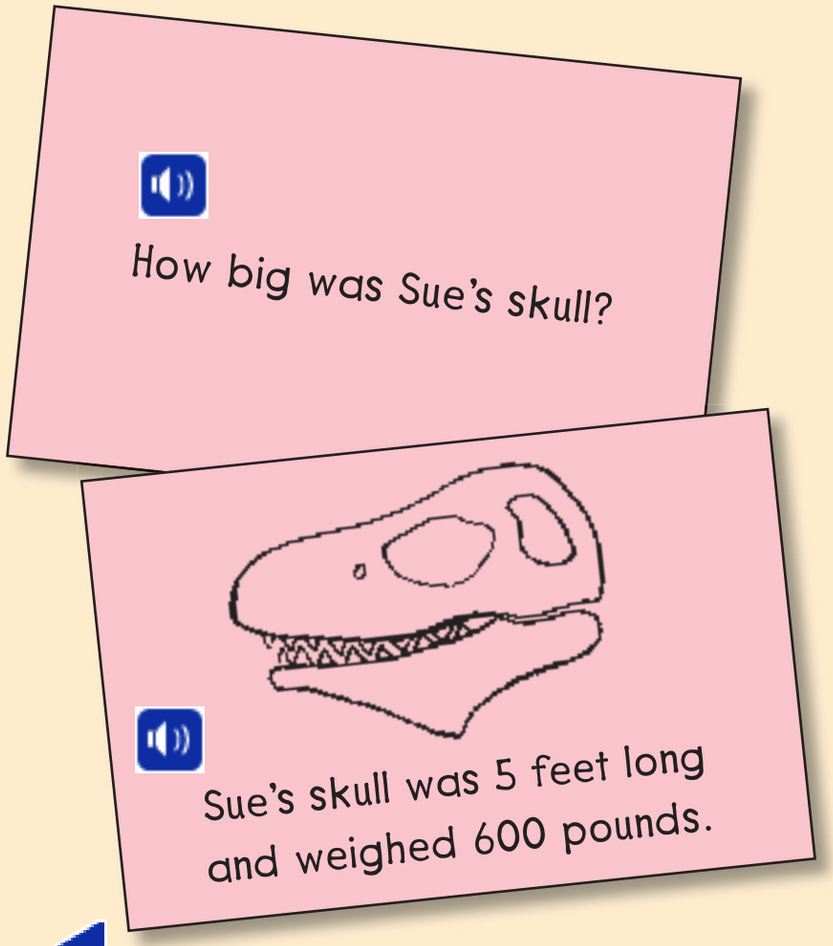
At last, on May 17, 2000, Sue went on display at the Field Museum. Sue is a very special and important exhibit. It is the largest and best preserved T. rex that has ever been found. It is also the most complete tyrannosaurus rex, because more than 200 bones were found.

One question that people often ask is, "Was Sue a female?" The answer is that no one knows whether Sue was a female or male. Maybe that question and others will be answered in the future, as scientists continue to study the dinosaur named Sue.

Now Try This

Fact Cards for Sue

- Use the information that you learned about Sue to make five fact cards.
- On one side of a card, write a question about Sue.



- On the other side of the card, write the fact that answers the question. Next to it, draw a picture of your answer.
- Exchange fact cards with a partner. Try to answer each question. Look on the other side of the card to see if your answer was right.

Glossary

auction *n.* a public sale in which a thing is sold to the one who offers the most money for it

evidence *n.* something that gives proof

excavate *v.* uncover by digging

fossils *n.* the rock-like remains of plants or animals that lived long ago

skilled *adj.* being able to do something well

skull *n.* the skeletal frame of the head

soil *n.* the loose top layer of the Earth's surface

wishbone *n.* the forked bone in front of the breastbone in most birds

Think and Share

1. Why do you think the author wrote this book?
2. What questions about dinosaurs would you like to look up after reading this book? Where will you look?
3. On a separate sheet of paper make a T-chart. Write all the words from the book that end with *–ing* in the left column. Next to each word in the right column, write the base word.

-ing word	Base word

4. Name a fact that you learned just from reading one of the picture captions.