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Science

Science

Earth Science

Going On a Dinosaur Dig



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Author's Purpose• Cause and Effect• Monitor and Fix Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labels

Scott Foresman Reading 1.4.3



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by Kelly Kong





Going On a Dinosaur Dig



by **Kelly Kong**

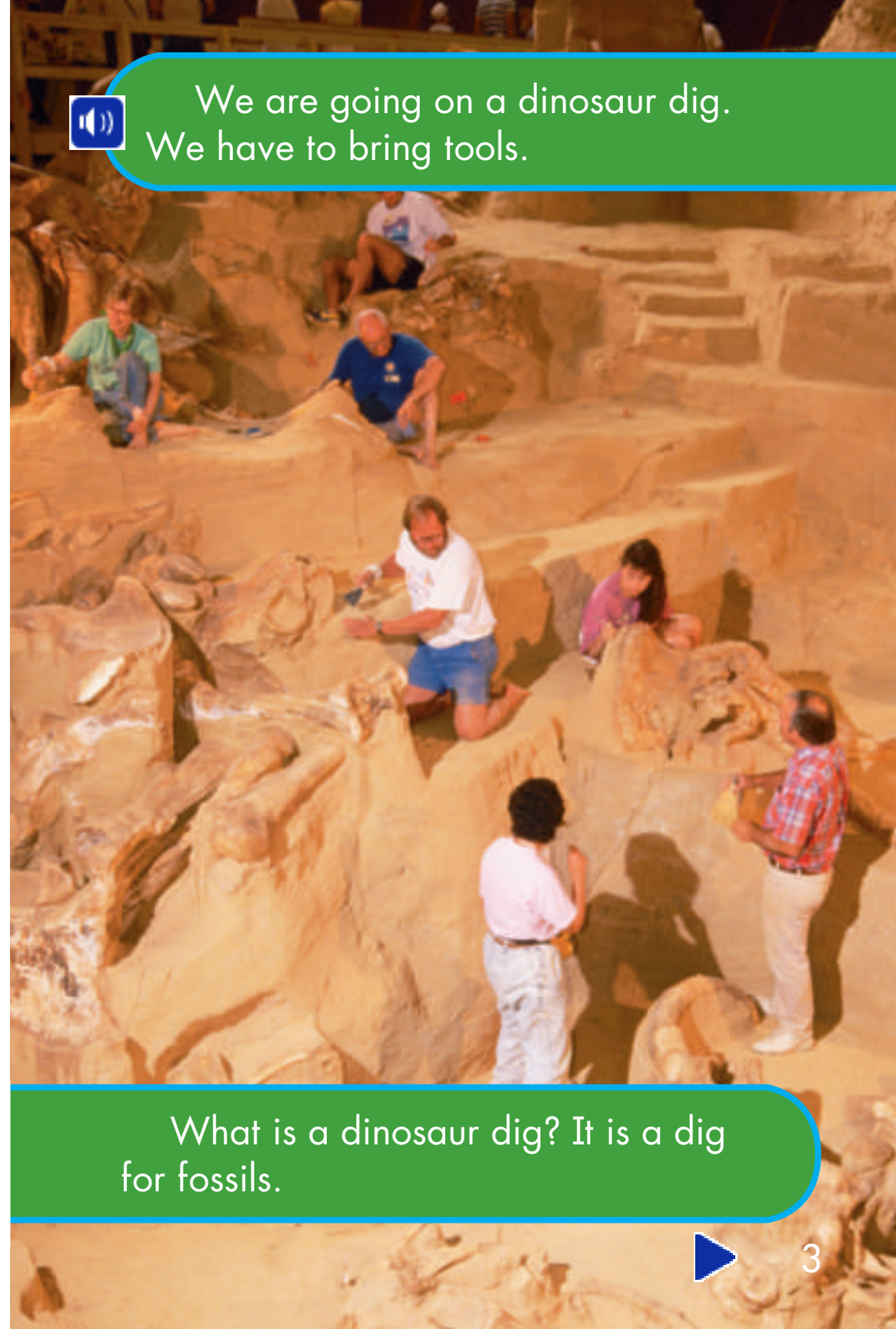


Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois
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We are going on a dinosaur dig.
We have to bring tools.



What is a dinosaur dig? It is a dig
for fossils.

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ISBN: 0-328-13203-9

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Fossils can be bones of animals from a long time ago. Or a fossil can be a wild animal footprint that has turned to stone.

Scientists called paleontologists dig for fossils and study them.



Paleontologists look for fossils in old, old rocks.

First, the digging team finds a place to dig. Once they have found a good place, they rope it off in the shape of a square. Then they start to dig. What tools do you think they use?





Small brush



Trowel



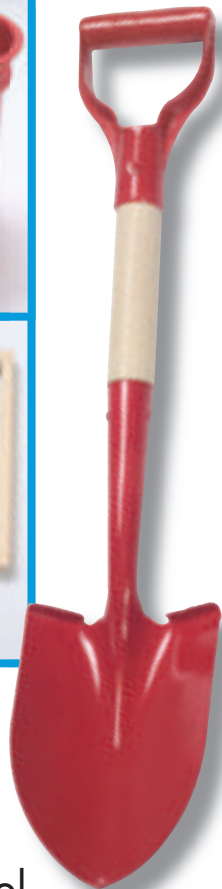
Bucket



Screen



Rope



Shovel



The team must dig through many layers of soil. They might use a shovel, but not for long. Fossils can fall apart. To dig carefully, they use a trowel. Their goal is to save the fossil.



If you want to look for fossils, try this:

1. Put a screen over a bucket. Scoop soil from your dig onto the screen.



2. If you have found a fossil, it will stay on the screen. What do you think you may have found?





The shape of a fossil helps tell the story of the fossil. A fossil of a dinosaur tooth can tell us what the dinosaur ate.



Fossils of dinosaur teeth show us that some dinosaurs ate meat, and some dinosaurs ate plants. Sharp, pointed teeth are from the mouth of a meat-eating dinosaur. Flat, leaf-like teeth are from the mouth of a plant-eating dinosaur.

Flat, leaf-like teeth = plant eaters

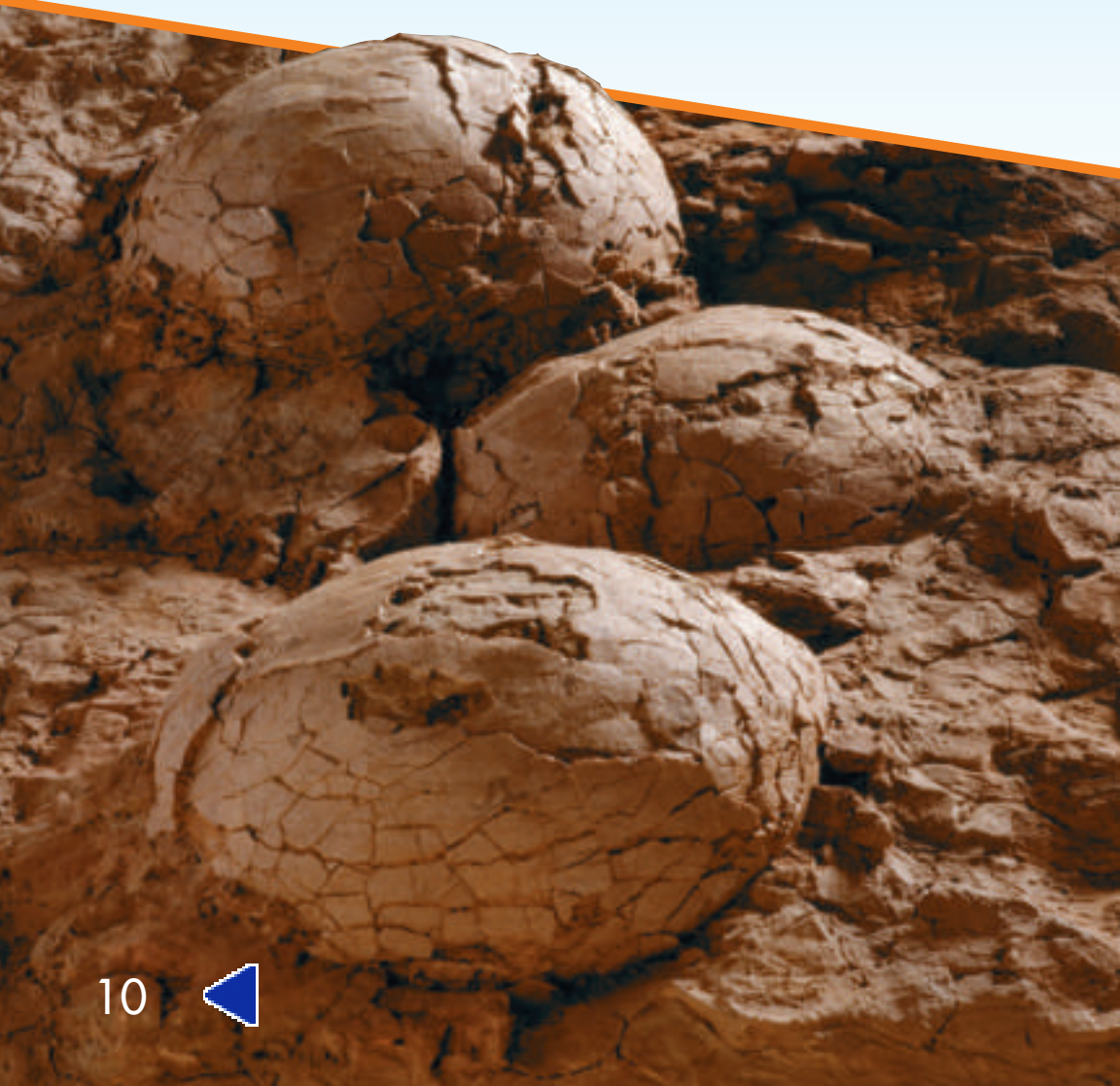


Sharp, pointed teeth = meat eaters





Paleontologists have found fossils of dinosaur eggs in China and Africa. Sometimes these eggs are in a nest. Sometimes they look like big rocks, not eggs!



Not every rock or bone in the earth is a fossil. But if you are lucky and find a fossil, you should share it. Many paleontologists share fossils they find. Just look at the next page.





The paleontologist who found this fossil took it to a museum. That's where you can see it.

Fossils can be found in many places. Maybe you can find one in your own backyard!



Think and Share

Read Together

1. What would you like to ask the author about the book she wrote? Use the chart to help you.

K	What we know	W	What we want to know	L	What we learned

2. Where would you look to find out more about dinosaur fossils?
3. *Paleontologist* and *fossil* are big words. Look back in the book to find what they mean. Use each word in a sentence.
4. Look back in your book. Tell how the teeth of meat-eating dinosaurs look.

