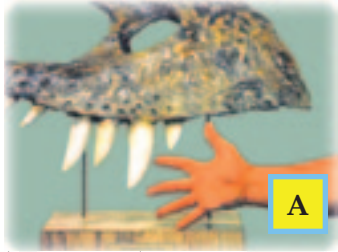


March-April 2014

### T-REX'S DIET?

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

The dinosaur Tyrannosaurus-Rex (T-Rex) had big teeth. Some of its teeth were 7 inches long, but not all of T-Rex's teeth were large



(picture A).

When we look at these real sharp, canine type teeth, what do we assume that T-Rex ate? Meat? How many of you have ever been into McDonald's®, and as you were munching on a burger, had T-Rex come and sit down next to you? What did it order, a McDonald's® hamburger, or a McDonald's® salad? In other words, did T-Rex order a salad or the guy that made the salad? Kids will almost always yell out, "The guy!" However, no one has recently ever actually been able to see T-Rex eating,



so why do some think that it was a meat eater? Because of his teeth, right?

Look at the drawing of teeth in picture B. Look how sharp and carnivorous (meat eating) they look. So what do you think this



F

creature eats? Meat? No, these teeth belong to a fruit bat (picture C). What do fruit bats eat? This is not a trick question; they eat fruit! Some fruits have hard outside coverings ... it takes a sharp tooth to be able to get through the hard outside into the soft inner parts.



C

When you look at these sharp, carnivorous teeth (picture D), you would assume that this animal eats meat. However, it does not eat meat. This is a spider monkey. What do spider monkeys eat? Not spiders! They mostly eat fruit.



D

What about pandas (picture E), what do they eat? Bamboo. The panda will sometimes eat a bamboo rat if it can catch it, but Bamboo Rats live underground and are seldom caught by a panda. 99% of a panda's diet consists of bamboo (a type of grass). It takes a sharp tooth to get through the tough outside of bamboo.



E

Take a close look at the drawing (picture F) of these teeth. Do you think these teeth belong to a meat eater? Or do you think they belong to a fruit eater? Actually these teeth belong to neither a fruit eater nor a meat eater. They belong to a nectar feeding bat (picture G), which feeds on the nectar of flowers. Like a hummingbird or a bee, nectar bats hover in front of a flower, and

with their long tongues, collect the nectar from flowers for food. So what do they need these sharp fangs for? Are they used for defense? Not really. By observing nectar feeding bats, it was observed that they use their teeth primarily for combing or grooming their fur. Only by observation would we ever have known that!

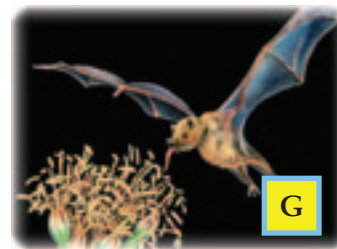


Some scientists believe that T-Rex was nothing more than a fruit eater. Is that possible? We don't know ... we weren't there.

Geologists have found what they call an extinct type of Cycad in the same layers as dinosaurs. They look like large pineapples although we don't know for sure what they were. Can you take a raw pineapple, pick it up and just bite into it? No. If you do you will have to go get your gums and lips sewn up. Pineapples are rough with sharp edges and points. How do you get to the soft inner parts of a pineapple? You cut into it with a knife. If you don't have a sharp knife in your back pocket, what would be another good tool to cut into a hard fruit with? A tooth ... a sharp tooth.



Some scientists believe that Tyrannosaurus was a fast runner and a fierce hunter, yet others take a look at the same fossils, and think that T-Rex could not have been a fast runner. They feel the bones were not positioned correctly for fast running and hunting; therefore they believe he was probably a scavenger. But do we know if any of these ideas are true? No. Only



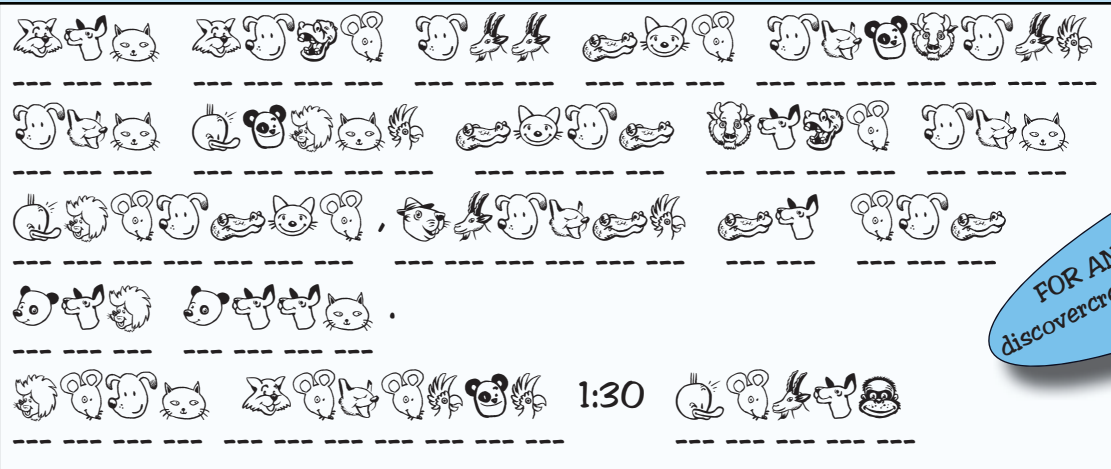
G

observation can tell us that.

Our Bible tells us that at one time T-Rex was a plant eater (Genesis 1:30). All animals along with man were created to eat plants. Remember, we are not animals! We have a spirit (Genesis 2:7) which animals do not have! When Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and eating of the forbidden fruit on the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17), death came into the world. Only then did animals begin to kill and eat each other.

Perhaps after man sinned, T-Rex was similar to an American Black Bear (picture A). Bears eat mostly fruit, yet they also scavenge, and hunt. Could T-Rex have done the same? Only observation can tell us.

<sup>1</sup> Derived from Discover Creation Children's Adventure Curriculum pgs. D59 – D63 ... available at: <http://discovercreation.org/store/DiscoverCreationChildrensAdventureCurriculum.htm>



Use the KEY below to solve the secret code hidden above

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

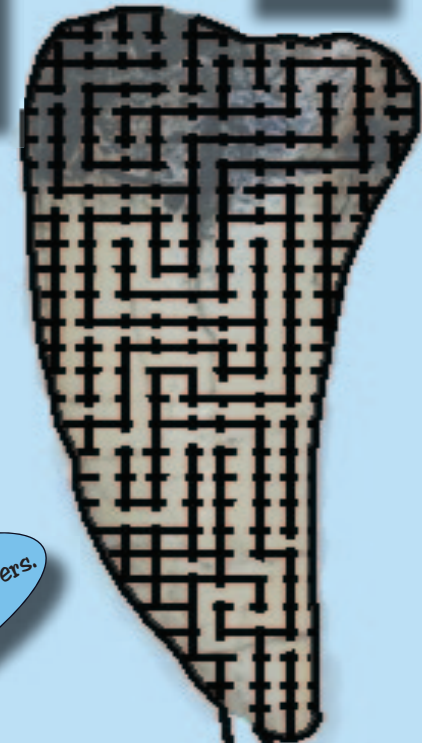
And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. Genesis 1:30

MAZE

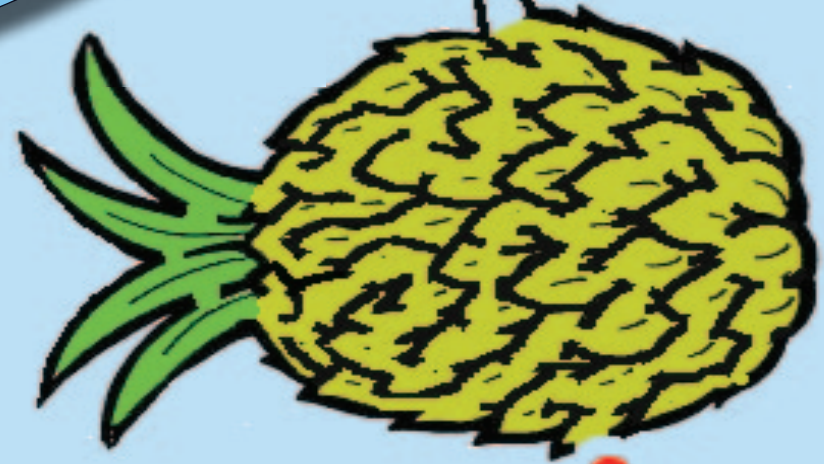
Find your way through the tooth, pineapple fruit and leaves



START



FOR ANSWERS GO TO: <http://www.discovercreation.org/kids/NewsletterAnswers.htm>



END