New Species of Allosaurus Discovered in Utah

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In 1877, the *Allosaurus,* a big, meat-eating dinosaur, was first presented to the public by a man named Marsh. Over the years, it became one of the most popular dinosaurs in the world. The *Allosaurus fragilis* is the most common kind of *Allosaurus*. In fact, so many of its fossils were dug up in Utah, it is now the state fossil. By the early 1990s, yet another *Allosaurus* fossil was dug up in Dinosaur National Monument. This time, it was *Allosaurus fragilis'* older cousin—*Allosaurus jimmadseni*. Now, yet another of these old fossils has been found and is on exhibit in Utah.

During the late Jurassic Period, which was 157 to 152 million years ago, the American West was home to *Allosaurus jimmadseni*. That makes it the oldest kind of *Allosaurus.* Like its relatives that came after, it

could walk on two legs and was quick to consume flesh. It did not want to snack on plants!

Allosaurus jimmadseni had a short, thin skull with crests that extended from spikes in front of its eyes all the way down to its nose. In its lifetime, *Allosaurus jimmadseni* was the most common and strongest predator of its ecosystem. That is because it was made to hunt! It had long legs and arms, and a long tail as well. It had three sharp claws on each of its front limbs and lots of jagged teeth that were just right for cutting into the soft flesh of small dinosaurs. Adults hunted in small packs and snuck up on their victims. Juveniles were talented at hunting because their long legs made them fast.

Finding a new kind of dinosaur in rocks that have been explored for more than 150 years is both shocking and thrilling. Who knows how many more hidden fossils exist? Maybe there is one that is more fantastic than the *Allosaurus jimmadseni.*

Teacher Resources

Please note: this non-controlled readable text passage features a ***description text structure***. As such, it is written to be ***at least 80% decodable at Substep 4.2***. A specific decodability score is listed below.

- This text passage is 80.00% decodable at Substep 4.2.

Text Easability Scores
If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at *http://tea.cohmetrix.com/*. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you wish.

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