

“SuperCroc” Discussion Prompts

Name_____ Period_____

Page 848 ~ Lines 1-2

~How does the first sentence of this article relate to the key idea of monsters?

Page 848 ~ Lines 1-18

This passage introduces scientist Paul Sereno, his research goals, and the setting of his field research in Niger.

~Who is Paul Sereno? What does he study?

~Where is Gadoufaoua? How does the research team get there?

~What does Gadoufaoua look like?

~What does the team hope to find in this region?

Page 849

~Preview the article’s subheadings. What do you think the article will tell you about SuperCroc?

Page 850

~How closely does this illustration match the text descriptions?

~The following sentences are from the section of text titled “A Different-Looking Beast”. Read each sentence, and decide if it is a fact or opinion. Circle the correct response.

- Fact or Opinion: SuperCroc’s head is wider in front than in the middle.
- Fact or Opinion: The shape is unique.
- Fact or Opinion: No other croc—living or extinct---has a snout quite like it.
- Fact or Opinion: At the front of SuperCroc’s head is a big hole.
- Fact or Opinion: That empty space may have given the ancient predator a keen sense of smell.

Page 851 ~ Lines 76-90

~How has Gidoufaoua changed since SuperCroc was alive 110 million years ago?

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~Why might ancient Gadoufaoua have been a good habitat for SuperCroc?

~Do you think any crocodiles live in Godoufaoua now? Why or Why not?

Page 851~Analayzing Graphs

~What information does this graph provide about crocodiles?

~When did the Mesozoic Era end? What era are we in now?

~How old do scientists estimate birds are? How old are the oldest bird fossils?

~Are birds more closely related to crocodiles or dinosaurs? How do you know?

~Look at the photograph on page 851. What information do this photograph and its caption add to the article?

Page 852.

~What does the caption help you understand about the photograph?

Page 852. Lines 102-108

This passage presents the conclusion of the article and raises a question: why are there no SuperCrocs today?

~What question is raised in the last section?

~Why might being rare make it more difficult for SuperCroc to survive as a species?

~What is not yet known about SuperCroc?

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