

Jurassic Park

Introduction, Prologue, and First Iteration

by Michael Crichton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abhorrent, anomaly, disinterested, headlong, mauled, profusion, recall, sporadic, transitory, vagaries

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Introduction, Prologue, and First Iteration · Strange events on the Costa Rican coast

Section 2 · Second Iteration · A paleontologist's badlands dinosaur dig

Section 3 · Third Iteration · Arriving at the island and its park

Section 4 · Fourth Iteration · The island tour, after dark

Section 5 · Fifth Iteration · A search across the island

Section 6 · Sixth Iteration · The return to the visitor center

Section 7 · Seventh Iteration and Epilogue · The group regroups at the lodge

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Most people find cruelty to animals **abhorrent**.

- A. causing disgust or hatred
- B. puzzling and mysterious
- C. common and unimportant

6. The market offered a **profusion** of fresh fruit.

- A. a large amount
- B. a rare variety
- C. a careful display

2. The scientist noticed an **anomaly** in the data.

- A. a familiar pattern
- B. an odd or unexpected thing
- C. a repeated measurement

7. The company had to **recall** the faulty cars from every dealership.

- A. to inspect and repair
- B. to call back or take back
- C. to bring to mind; remember

3. A good referee stays **disinterested** during every match.

- A. fair and unbiased
- B. strict and watchful
- C. bored and unconcerned

8. We heard only **sporadic** applause during the speech.

- A. sudden and loud
- B. forced and unwilling
- C. occasional and scattered

4. He raced **headlong** down the crowded stairs.

- A. in a clumsy way
- B. with reckless haste
- C. with noisy excitement

9. She knew the summer warmth would be **transitory**.

- A. brief; temporary
- B. hard to predict
- C. pleasant and gentle

5. The camper was **mauled** by a wild animal in the night.

- A. startled and frightened
- B. chased for a distance
- C. attacked and badly hurt

10. Farmers must cope with the **vagaries** of the weather.

- A. hidden dangers
- B. yearly cycles
- C. unpredictable changes

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	C

Vocabulary in Context
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *“Reptiles are abhorrent because of their cold body, pale color, cartilaginous skeleton, filthy skin, fierce aspect, calculating eye, offensive smell, harsh voice, squalid habitation, and terrible venom ...”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “abhorrent” most nearly suggests that reptiles...

- A. are difficult to classify
- B. are loathsome and disgusting
- C. are fascinating to observe

2 *“You cannot recall a new form of life.”*

In context, the word “recall” emphasizes that a newly created form of life...

- A. must be carefully recorded
- B. is easily forgotten
- C. can never be undone

3 *“The late twentieth century has witnessed a scientific gold rush of astonishing proportions: the headlong and furious haste to commercialize genetic engineering.”*

The author calls the rush to commercialize genetics “headlong” mainly to...

- A. stress how recklessly fast it is
- B. explain how the science works
- C. praise its rapid progress

4 *“... the industries traditionally subject to the vagaries of fashion, such as cosmetics ...”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the cosmetics and fashion industries are...

- A. driven by unpredictable shifts
- B. guided by strict regulations
- C. rooted in long, stable traditions

5 *“... above the transitory concerns of politics ...”*

Which statement about scientists is best supported by the passage?

- A. They long saw politics as fleeting
- B. They worked to reform politics
- C. They saw politics as a lasting duty

6 *“... whenever debate arose about technological matters, disinterested scientists were available to discuss the issues at the highest levels.”*

In the passage, the older “pure scientists” are characterized as...

- A. indifferent and unmotivated
- B. impartial, with no personal stake
- C. secretive about their work

7 *“‘Because it almost looks as if he was mauled,’ Bobbie Carter said, probing the wound.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that, despite Ed Regis’s story, the boy was...

- A. cut by falling machinery
- B. crushed in a backhoe accident
- C. attacked and torn by an animal

8 *“Her whole left arm was bloody, covered with a profusion of small bites, each the size of a thumbprint.”*

Which detail best supports the idea that Tina was bitten a great many times?

- A. the redness and swelling
- B. the many tiny, thumbprint-sized bites
- C. the foamy saliva on her arm

9 *“‘Basiliscus amoratus with three-toed genetic anomaly,’ she said, reading.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the lizard’s three-toed trait is...

- A. an unnatural sign it was engineered
- B. a normal variation in wild lizards
- C. a result of its young age

10 *“... the recent episodes of sporadic lizard bites implied no serious health hazards for Costa Rica.”*

According to the passage, Guitierrez regarded the recent lizard bites as...

- A. a steady, spreading epidemic
- B. a single isolated attack
- C. scattered, occasional incidents

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	The teaching point is the uncommon sense of 'recall' here -- to revoke or undo, not to remember.
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	
6	B	The tempting wrong answer reflects the common mix-up of 'disinterested' (impartial) with 'uninterested' (not caring).
7	C	Event comprehension. The section's clues -- no crush injury, defense wounds, Ed's nervous evasions -- show the backhoe story is false.
8	B	
9	A	Event comprehension. Earlier in the section the saliva carried a genetic-engineering marker, pointing to a lab-made creature rather than natural variation.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Introduction, Prologue, and First Iteration

The Introduction frames the late-twentieth-century rush to commercialize genetic engineering and the secretive InGen corporation, and the Prologue ('The Bite of the Raptor') shows a clinic worker mauled by an unknown animal. The First Iteration then opens a chain of strange incidents along the Costa Rican coast that begin to point toward something unusual on a nearby island. Includes the Introduction and Prologue, which open the novel ahead of the First Iteration.