

Jurassic Park

Fifth Iteration

by Michael Crichton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cavernous, contiguous, futile, inexorably, mundane, outmoded, postmortem, precariously, preoccupied, supercilious

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 regroupes 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. The empty warehouse felt **cavernous** and cold.

- A. vast and hollow
- B. dusty and dim
- C. plain and gray

2. The developer bought several **contiguous** lots downtown.

- A. expensive
- B. vacant
- C. adjoining

3. Arguing with the referee proved **futile**.

- A. pointless
- B. exhausting
- C. risky

4. The glacier crept **inexorably** down the valley.

- A. very slowly
- B. silently
- C. unstoppably

5. Washing the dishes is a **mundane** chore.

- A. enjoyable
- B. difficult
- C. ordinary

6. He clung to **outmoded** ideas about raising children.

- A. out of date
- B. foreign
- C. complicated

7. The pathologist confirmed the injury was **postmortem**.

- A. self-inflicted
- B. occurring after death
- C. purely accidental

8. The books were stacked **precariously** on the desk.

- A. in a neat, tidy way
- B. in a risky, unsteady way
- C. in a quick, careless way

9. She was so **preoccupied** that she missed her bus stop.

- A. deeply absorbed
- B. feeling drowsy
- C. in a great hurry

10. Her **supercilious** tone annoyed everyone at the meeting.

- A. hesitant
- B. arrogant
- C. whining

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

thintelligence — Michael Crichton's coined term for narrow, shallow cleverness that grasps the immediate problem but not its wider consequences

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “Those bites haven’t bled. They’re postmortem, from scavengers. Othys did that.”

As it is used in the passage, “postmortem” indicates that the small bites were made...

- A. after death
- B. by the tyrannosaur
- C. before death

2 “...I think you’ll find that the eight percent is topologically unified, meaning that those areas are contiguous.”

It can be inferred that, because the unmonitored areas are contiguous, an animal can...

- A. be tracked easily
- B. cross them unseen
- C. not reach them

3 “Scientists are actually preoccupied with accomplishment. So they are focused on whether they can do something. They never stop to ask if they should do something. ... Discovery is always a rape of the natural world. Always.”

Malcolm calls scientists “preoccupied with accomplishment” in order to...

- A. praise their drive
- B. fault their tunnel vision
- C. defend their funding

4 “The Jeep bounced precariously, the front end nosing so high they saw only sky through the windshield, then slamming down again toward the ground and racing forward again.”

The Jeep bouncing “precariously” mainly serves to...

- A. heighten the danger
- B. show driving skill
- C. convey their delight

5 “Grant paddled as strongly as he could, but he only succeeded in spinning the boat in circles. It continued inexorably toward the lip.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, drawn “inexorably” toward the lip, the raft...

- A. could not be stopped
- B. slowed in time
- C. drifted to shore

6 “Go to hell, you supercilious bastard.”

In Hammond’s insult, Malcolm is characterized as...

- A. arrogantly superior
- B. warm but forgetful
- C. timid and fearful

7 “He felt the cool air, the cavernous dimensions of the space, extending two floors below him.”

The shed’s “cavernous” interior is described to stress that it is...

- A. warm and bright
- B. vast and hollow
- C. cramped and full

8 “He groped like a blind man until he realized it was futile.”

It can be inferred that Arnold stopped groping because it was “futile,” meaning it...

- A. found the catwalk
- B. scared him off
- C. led to nothing

9 “And now chaos theory proves that unpredictability is built into our daily lives. It is as mundane as the rainstorm we cannot predict.”

Which detail best supports that unpredictability is an everyday part of life?

- A. chaos theory proves it
- B. it strikes rarely
- C. it is like a rainstorm

10 “We are witnessing the end of the scientific era. Science, like other outmoded systems, is destroying itself.”

Which choice best describes Malcolm’s attitude toward modern science?

- A. it will recover
- B. it is thriving
- C. it is obsolete

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	B	
4	A	Event comprehension. The danger comes from their flight from the charging tyrannosaur.
5	A	
6	A	Character comprehension. Hammond's insult names the superior manner Malcolm shows throughout the section.
7	B	
8	C	
9	C	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Fifth Iteration

With the park in crisis, Gennaro and the game warden Muldoon search the grounds amid signs of violence while scattered characters try to survive. The staff scramble to understand how the dinosaurs have escaped their controls. Section runs to the end of the Fifth Iteration.