

The Peaceful Dinosaur

In 1940, scientists found a dinosaur backbone in the mountains of Colombia. They wanted to dig there again. They hoped to discover more about the dinosaur. But a civil war raged for many years. No one was allowed to go into the mountains where the fighting was happening.

In 2022, scientists finally returned to the mountains. They discovered that the backbone belonged to a new kind of dinosaur. It hadn't been identified before. The dinosaur was a long-necked sauropod.

Scientists say that this discovery is all thanks to a 2016 peace treaty. The deal ended the fighting between the Colombian government and the rebels in the mountains. The new peace allowed science to continue.

In honor of the peace deal, scientists named the sauropod *Perijasaurus lapaz*. The first part of the name refers to the mountains. The second part of the name is the Spanish word for peace.

The *Perijasaurus lapaz* lived 175 million years ago. It grew to 39 feet long. It is a bigger version of other long-necked sauropods found on other continents.

It is unusual to find dinosaur fossils in the north of South America. These Colombian mountains are the furthest north that a dinosaur has been found.



Without the peace deal, the discovery might not have been made. Scientists say that peace and cooperation are important ingredients for progress.



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Why did it take so long for scientists to dig in the mountains again?
 - a. Because of the peace deal
 - b. Because of the civil war
 - c. Because of money
 - d. Because they didn't think there was anything else to discover there

2. Why did scientists name the dinosaur *Perijasaurus lapaz*?
 - a. Because of the peace deal
 - b. Because of the mountains
 - c. Because of the scientist who found it
 - d. A and B

3. What is unusual about the *Perijasaurus lapaz*?
 - a. It was found in the north of South America
 - b. It was found in the south of South America
 - c. It had a long-neck
 - d. It lived 175 million years ago

4. What do scientists mean when they say that "peace and cooperation are important ingredients for progress."
 - a. Discoveries are made during times of war
 - b. Discoveries are made when there is competition
 - c. Discoveries are made when people work together
 - d. Discoveries are made in the kitchen

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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