

Weekly Academic Review

It's a Bird! It's a Plane!

Week 12

Directions: Read to find out what the mystery is in this story. Mark the location of the answers on any question that labels which paragraph the answer can be found.

1 "What is that?" Charlie screamed.

2 Pat almost jumped out of her seat as she shouted. "What is what?"

3 "It looks like a horrible prehistoric reptile," Charlie cried.

4 "Are you crazy? This is Washington, the District of Columbia. There aren't any prehistoric creatures here." Pat said.

5 To be sure, there were the familiar sights of Washington: the White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Capitol. Pat and Charlie certainly had not stepped back in time when they took off from National Airport.

6 "Maybe I'm seeing things too," Pat exclaimed as they turned to the north, "but is that it below us?"

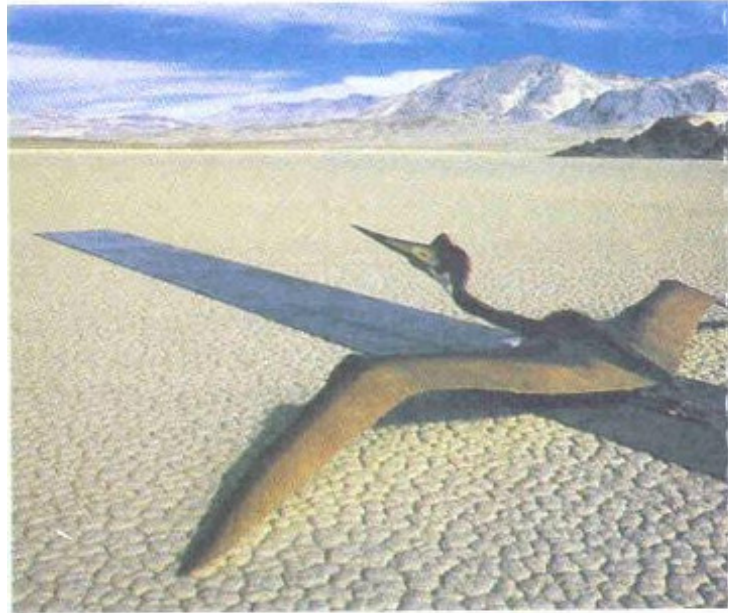
7 "It sure is! I'd feel safer if we got out of here," Charlie said.

8 "Whew! Whatever it is sure looks real. Let's see if the control tower knows about it," Pat suggested.

9 Pat quickly switched on the radio and said, "Washington control, are we being invaded by a pterodactyl? There's an unbelievable creature down below that must have at least a fifteen-foot wingspread."

10 "It's not a pair of duck tails, Pat. It's a huge bird!" Charlie cried, trying to repeat what he had heard Pat say.

11 "Vista 5347 Victor, have you got a problem up there?" Frank, an air traffic controller, answered at last. "I know what you're looking at, but don't worry. It's not alive. It's a Smithsonian Institution model. The museum tested it out to see if an animal that big really could have flown. Its wings were powered by electric motors. The whole thing was controlled by a computer at the Smithsonian."



12 "Oh, now I remember." Pat said as Frank signed off. "It was modeled after the fossils they found in West Texas in the 1970s. Scientists believe it was the largest creature that ever flew," she continued. "The one we saw has an eighteen-foot wingspread. but the real ones were at least twice as big."

14 "Did it fly without a tail like this one?" Charlie asked.

15 "Yes," Pat explained, "supposedly it was able to move its wings back and forth to stay level and shift its weight to move through air currents."

16 "Well, it certainly looked real to me," Charlie said. "I thought for sure it was licking its chops when we flew over it."

17 "I was pretty startled myself," Pat added, "but I was trying to be reasonable. I figured that a sixty-five-million-year-old creature might have a little trouble catching us."

18 "You have nothing to worry about. Pat. The biggest birdbrains you have to deal with are those South American condors. whose wingspread is only nine feet, and me!" Charlie joked.

Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. of the time before written history _____
(Par. 3)
2. extinct flying reptile _____
(Par 9)
3. hardened animal or plant remains _____
(Par 12)
4. large vultures _____
(Par 18)

An **abbreviation** is a short form of a word or group of words. Write the words from the story that are represented by these abbreviations.

5. D.C. _____
(Par. 4)
6. n. _____
(Par. 6)
7. ft. _____
(Par. 7)
8. mus. _____
(Par. 11)
9. elec. _____
(Par. 11)
10. S.A. _____
(Par. 18)

Learning to Study

A **pronunciation key** is a list of sound symbols and key words that tell how to pronounce dictionary entry words. A pronunciation key can be found on the inside back cover of this book. Use this key to write the words that each of these respellings represents.

1. /hor' ə bəl/ _____
2. /fə mil' yər/ _____
3. /ter' ə dak' təl/ _____
4. /mod' əl/ _____
5. /myu zē' əm/ _____

Reading and Thinking

A **fact** is something that is known to be true. An **opinion** is what a person believes. An opinion may or may not be true. Write **F** for fact or **O** for opinion before each statement below.

1. _____ The hawk is a huge bird.
2. _____ The pterodactyl was scary.
3. _____ The Smithsonian Institution is in Washington, D.C.
4. _____ A condor's wingspread is nine feet.

Write **T** before statements that are true. Write **F** before those that are false.

5. _____ Pterodactyls were reptiles that are believed to have flown.
6. _____ The White I-louse is in Washington, D.C.
7. _____ Pterodactyls are alive now.
8. _____ Pterodactyl fossils have not been found.
9. What did the Smithsonian do with the model? _____

10. How did Pat know for sure they were flying over Washington, D.C.? _____

Working with Words

The suffix **-able** or **-ible** means "capable of" or "tending to." Write the words from the story that have this suffix and that are formed from these base words.

1. horror _____
(Par.3)
2. believe _____
(Par. 9)
3. reason _____
(Par. 17)