

## READING

## Gapped Text

**Task 7** - You are going to read an extract from a newspaper article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

## Dinosaur tracks unveiled in Texas

### Severe drought reveals 113-million-year-old dinosaur tracks

Across the world, vanishing waters from drought conditions have revealed a myriad of previously hidden objects and artifacts in the last couple of weeks alone. In Europe, dozens of Nazi warships appeared in the Danube when water levels dropped. Receding waters in China's Yangtze River uncovered three Buddhist statues. And human bodies and sunken ships have turned up in Nevada's Lake Mead.

1

There has been a severe lack of rain, which has given us a brief opportunity to view some 113 million year old dinosaur tracks that have been preserved in stone. Once covered by mud, silt, and shallow water, the giant footprints were recently revealed following a drought that has been drying up the Paluxy River, according to a video released this week.

2

This genus of dinosaur could grow up to 11 meters (36 feet) in length, and its enormous size is reflected in its footprints, which can extend 30 centimeters (one foot) from heel to claw. The Sauroposeidon is a type of sauropod dinosaur, whose tracks are large and elephant-like.

3

"Most of the time, they are submerged in mud and water. Only during severe drought are some visible", continued Paul Baker, a park ranger for thirty years who grew up in the area following his father around. So that visitors can get a good view of the tracks, Baker and other volunteers under his direction use leaf blowers and whisk brooms to clean up the tracks.

4

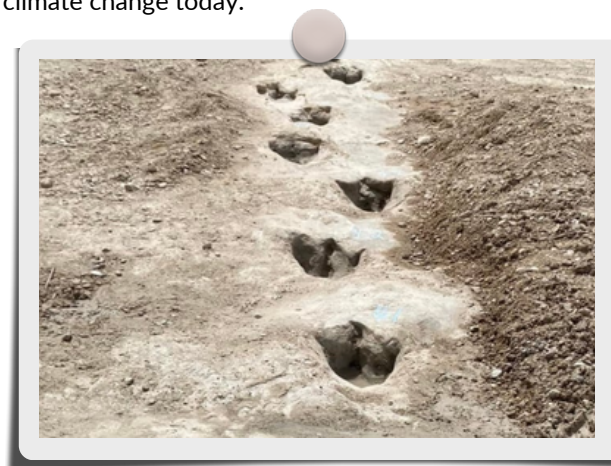
One such sauropod species is the Sauroposeidon, a gigantic herbivore that stood about 18 meters tall and weighed about 39 tons. According to Davis, the Acrocanthosaurus may have fed on the Sauroposeidon's young or injured. The footprints were made when the area was a shallow inland sea during the Cretaceous period, long before the time of rolling prairies in central Texas.

5

Since then, researchers have discovered and documented many footprints in the park, but they are only occasionally visible when the river's water levels allows them to be. Because of the current extreme drought in Texas, even more of the prints have been revealed along the riverbed than usual.

6

There's some irony in the fact that dinosaurs were ultimately wiped out by very rapid climate change in prehistoric times and now, the evidence of the existence of these giant creatures is exposed due to human-made climate change today.



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A

The Paluxy River has dried up more than usual, according to the park's superintendent Jeff Davis, due to months of unusually dry weather. He said, "Those are exposed tracks, which are very infrequently seen. They are frequently covered in sandbars, gravel, and deep water."

B

The tracks were first discovered in 1909 after a massive flood hit the Paluxy River, exposing the fossilized prints. At first, paleontologists only noticed the distinctive three-toed theropod prints, but later they realized the site was also home to sauropod footprints - the first distinct sauropod tracks ever found in the world.

C

It's also possible to determine whether the dinosaur was moving in a certain direction, why it was going that way or whether multiple dinosaurs were moving together in a herd, Davis said, adding that all this is much more difficult to discern from studying skeletons alone.

D

The deep footprints, complete with long claw marks, lie in the bed of the river, which runs through Dinosaur Valley State Park about 140 kilometers southwest of Dallas. They were most likely left there by an Acrocanthosaurus, an enormous carnivore that lived in what is now North America some 113 to 110 million years ago.

E

Dinosaur enthusiasts are flocking to Dinosaur Valley in Texas, which served as a prehistoric highway during the early Cretaceous Period. Texas is not an exception to the devastating droughts that have uncovered numerous ancient wonders this summer, including the Spanish Stonehenge and the ruins of an Iraqi city that dates back 3,400 years. [@language.fairy](#)

F

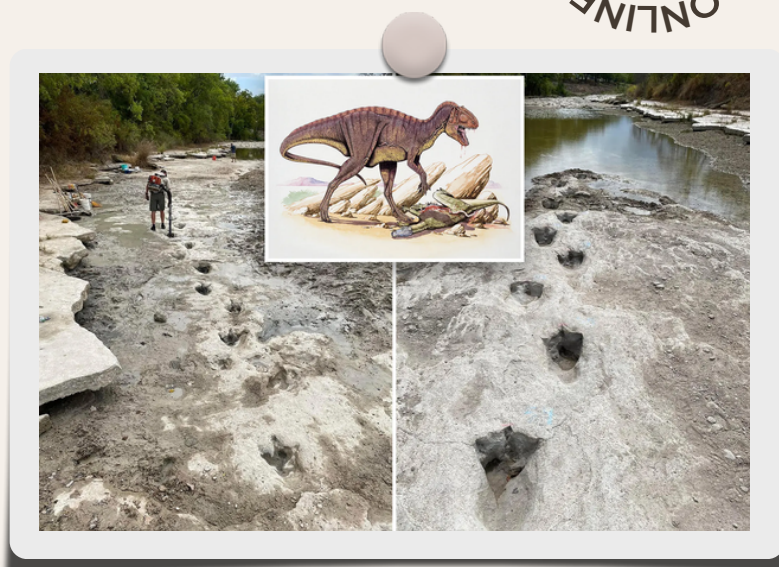
But, according to Davis, rains had already begun to fill in the ancient tracks, and will soon hide the secret treasures of the park once again in the mud and silt of the river. Whether these remarkably preserved tracks will be seen again after the deluge remains unknown for now.

G

In the early Cretaceous Period, the Dinosaur Valley State Park was like a prehistoric highway. It features five main track sites featuring the footprints of both theropods (including Acrocanthosaurus and Tyrannosaurus rex) and sauropods, four-legged dinosaurs whose members are known for their long noodle necks and elephant-like tracks.

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Answer Key: 1-E, 2-D, 3-A, 4-G, 5-B, 6-F