

Junior Paleontologists Journal – Week 9



Welcome back Junior Paleontologists!

Dinosaur Detectives: Who would win? *Spinosaurus* or *T. rex*?



National Geographic (Wikipedia)



Scott Robert Anselmo (Wikipedia)

Answer: No one knows for sure. *Spinosaurus* was bigger than *T. rex* and might have been stronger.

Dinosaur Artists: Did you make a painting or a drawing, or write a story or a poem?

Now back to our first week: we will call this week Triassic Park. It was when *Coelophysis* lived in our area. Do you remember *Coelophysis*?

Triassic Park

You can visit **Triassic Park** right here in Arizona, at **Petrified Forest National Park**. It has hundreds of petrified logs in a beautiful place called the Painted Desert.



Petrified Forest National Park

Dinosaur Detectives: If you found this log in the desert, how could you know if it is modern or fossil?

Dinosaur Artists: can you make a drawing or a painting that shows this petrified log with a dinosaur? Or can you write a story or poem about this log?



Dinosaur Detectives: How could you tell if this log is a fossil?

Answer: If it is stone, it is a fossil. If it has wood but not stone, it would be a modern log. This one is a fossil.

Dinosaur Artists: Did you make a painting or a drawing, or write a story?

Here is another petrified log at Petrified Forest National Park.



Huge petrified log; Petrified Forest National Park JH-072517

Dinosaurs lived at the same time as these logs. One is *Coelophysis* from Week Number 1.

Dinosaur Detectives: How did this huge log get there?

Dinosaur Artists: Can you make a drawing or a painting with a petrified log on top of a big hill? Or write a story or a poem about it with *Coelophysis*?

Dinosaur Detectives: Did you figure out how that huge log got to the top of the hill?

Answer: It is there because the rocks all around it eroded away. “Eroded” means to crumble and be carried away by rain or wind.



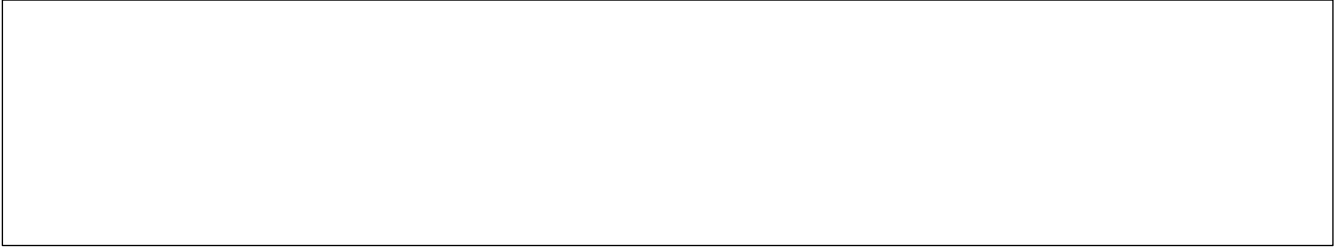
Dinosaur Artists: did you make a painting or a drawing, or write a story about that petrified log?



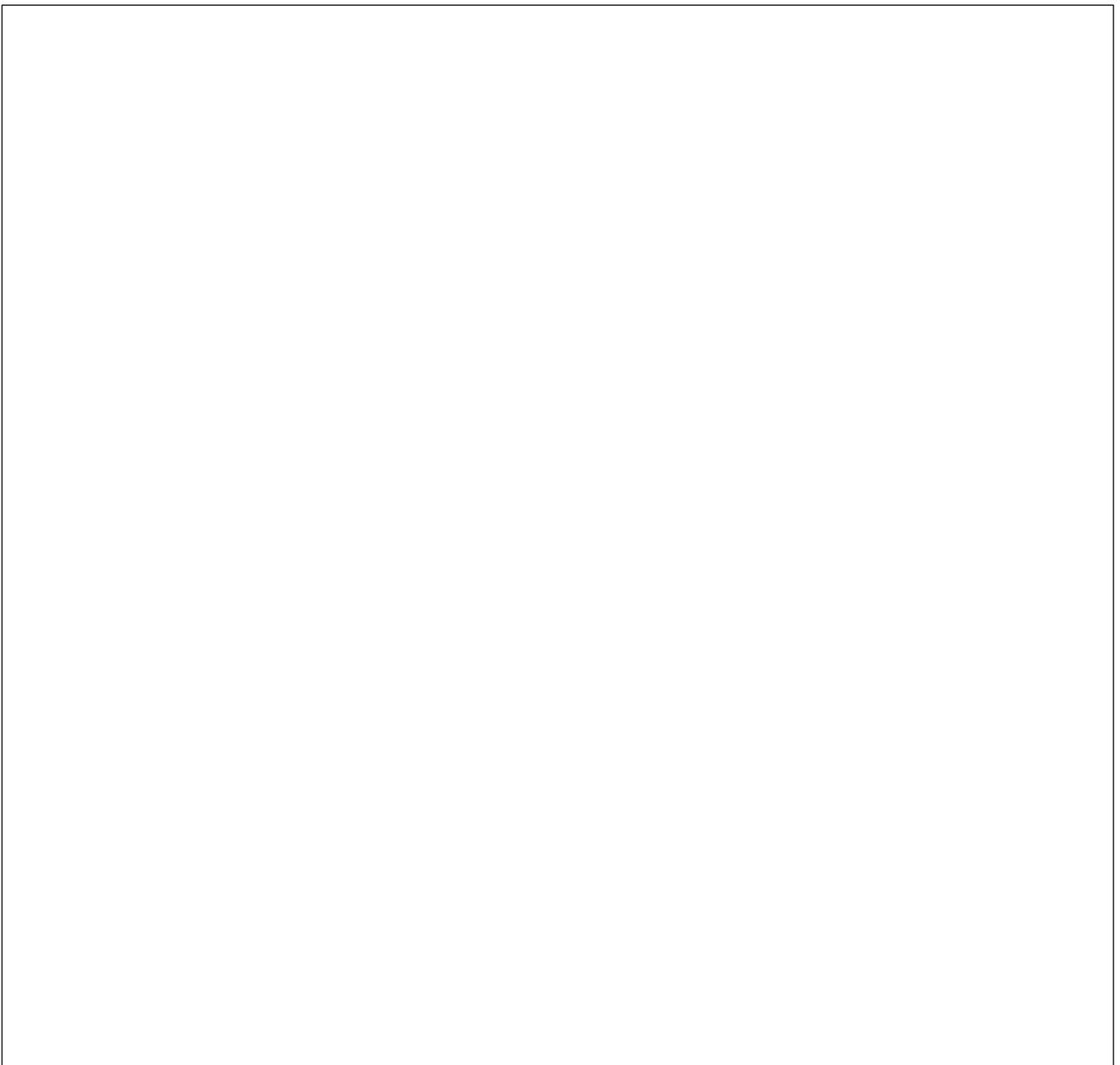
Petrified Forest National Park T Scott Williams

Here is another beautiful picture from Petrified Forest National Park.

Dinosaur Detectives: How did all these pieces of a petrified log get so mixed up?



Dinosaur Artists: Can you make a painting or a drawing of petrified logs that are all broken and mixed up? Or can you write a story or a poem?



Dinosaur Detectives: Did you figure out why these logs are so mixed up?



Answer: Like yesterday, it is because they were eroded. When water and wind crumbled the rock under the logs, the pieces went all over the place and even rolled down hill.

Dinosaur Artists: Did you make a painting or write a story or poem?

This beautiful picture from Petrified Forest National Park might have dinosaur bones at the end of the rainbow! What do you think?



Petrified Forest National Park KNPS Stuart Holmes

Dinosaur Detectives: This is part of the Painted Desert. Can you figure out why there are so many colors in the rock layers of the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest National Park?

Dinosaur Artists: Can you draw a picture or make a painting of the Painted Desert with a rainbow? Or can you write a story about it? Or a poem?

Dinosaur Detectives:

Why are there so many colors in the rock layers of the Painted Desert?



Answer:

This is a hard question. Almost all of the colors are from iron in the rocks, which can make all of these colors, especially when the iron comes in contact with the air.

Dinosaur Artists: Did you make a drawing or a painting of the Painted Desert? Or write a story or poem?

Petrified Logs at the Museum of Northern Arizona



MNA – David D. Gillette

This huge petrified log is near the entrance to the exhibits building at MNA.



MNA – David D. Gillette

This petrified log is in
the Geology Hall at
MNA, next to the
Coelophysis dinosaurs.

Dinosaur Detectives: Next time you visit MNA, search in the parking lot to see how many petrified logs you can find.

Dinosaur Artists: Next time you visit MNA, take some extra time to find a petrified log that has lots of color, and make a drawing or a painting of it. Or write a story or a poem. (You can use the back of this page for your drawing or poem).

Happy Dinosaur Hunting, Junior Paleontologists!