SN IN HIGH SCHOOLS
February 4, 2017

Dino Doomsday

Quest through the Archives

Directions: After reading the infographic "The lucky ones," use the archives at www.sciencenews.org to answer these questions:

1. **Search for an article about birds in the Cretaceous Period. Describe what new information scientists learned about birds from that time period.**

2. **Search for an article about a dinosaur trait that scientists tried to simulate in a modern bird. Summarize what the scientists did.**

3. **Find an article about an "oldest known" relative of modern birds. Where did the bird live and what do scientists think it looked like?**

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Responses to Quest Through the Archives

1. **Search for an article about birds in the Cretaceous Period. Describe what new information scientists learned about birds from that time period.** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/birds'-honks-filled-late-cretaceous-air. The article discusses the discovery of a fossilized voice box or syrinx from the Late Cretaceous. The discovery allowed scientists to predict what prehistoric birds might have sounded like.

2. **Search for an article about a dinosaur trait that scientists tried to simulate in a modern bird. Summarize what the scientists did.** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/blog/scicurious/weighted-butt-gives-chickens-dinosaur-strut. Chickens walk on two legs like many dinosaurs. By giving a chicken a makeshift weighted tail, scientists tried to model a dinosaur walk.

3. **Find an article about an "oldest known" relative of modern birds. Where did the bird live and what do scientists think it looked like?** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/oldest-known-avian-relative-today's-birds-found-china. The remains of an *Archaeornithura meemannae*, which lived 130.7 million years ago, were found in northeastern China. It is thought to have been the size of a hummingbird with stubby feathers, and it may have waded in the water.