

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLASS _____

Team _____

seat _____

Reading a Science Article

Scientists communicate their discoveries and ideas to other scientists in many ways. One way is by writing articles for scientific magazines. Newspapers and popular magazines often contain articles related to science. These articles are usually full of information and ideas. The following suggestions will help you understand these articles.

- A. Read the title of the article; then read the headings of sections.
- B. Read the article quickly. Scan illustrations for a general impression.
- C. Read the article carefully, noting key sentences in each paragraph. Carefully study the illustrations that are referred to in the article.
- D. Determine the main idea of the article.
- E. What facts are presented to support this main idea?
- F. What interpretations of these facts are presented?
- G. Read the following article, using these steps. Underline the key sentences and circle the main idea. Circle any new words you find. Then answer these questions.

our goal is to look at articles that are not fiction and understand how to obtain information from them

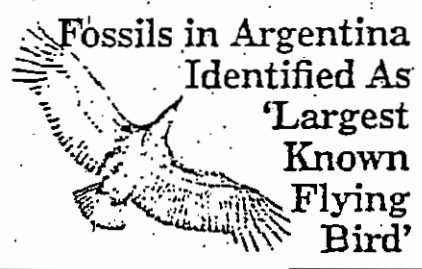
Scientists have discovered fossils of what is believed to have been the largest bird every to fly, a creature the size of a man with a wingspan of 25 feet.

The discovery, announced today by the National Geographic Society, was made in Argentina and confirmed by scientists at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

The remains are of a bird that measured 11 feet from beak to tail, weighed from 150 to 170 pounds and, when standing, could have looked a 6-foot-tall man directly in the eye.

"This makes it the world's largest known flying bird," said Dr. Kenneth E. Campbell, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the museum. "It's definitely a most spectacular creature."

Dr. Campbell said the biggest flying bird now alive is the Andean condor, which can weigh about 35 pounds and have a 10-foot wing-



span. The biggest previously known flying birds were extinct varieties with wingspans approaching 16 feet. The largest known creatures to take to the air were flying reptiles called pterosaurs, some of which had wingspans of up to 50 feet.

In the latest discovery, about a dozen bones from one giant bird were recovered at a site about 100 miles west of Buenos Aires by Dr. Eduardo P. Tonini and Dr. Rosendo Pascual of Argentina's La Plata Museum.

"We have the parts of three different wing bones, two leg bones, and parts of the skull," Dr. Camp-

bell said in a telephone interview. While visiting Argentina last year, he was shown the fossils and identified them as a new, larger type of teratorn. This is an extinct group of large birds whose name in Greek means "wonder birds."

Because of their size, they probably relied almost exclusively on gliding to fly, rather than wing flapping," Dr. Campbell said. "People are going to say that any bird that is large simply couldn't fly, but we are sure that it did."

Dr. Campbell, whose work is supported by the National Geographic Society, said these predator birds are believed to have evolved in South America and spread to the southern United States. Teratorns, which existed for millions of years, became extinct about 10,000 years ago, he said. The new fossils have been dated tentatively as being five million to eight million years old.

1. What is the main idea of this article? _____
2. List two facts given in the article. _____
- a. _____
- b. _____
3. Identify a sentence that is an interpretation. _____

Standards 52a, 56d, 57a, 57b, 57c, 57d, 57e, 85T.6-8.1

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