

THE FOSSIL-FINDING FIELD TRIP

The school bus entered the campsite on Lake Claiborne near Homer, Louisiana. Tony was there to greet the third grade class when they arrived. He was the guide for their fossil-finding field trip.

Everyone was excited about the field trip except Harry. He was afraid to hike in a swamp area to get to the fossil dig site. He had heard that snakes and alligators live in wet swampland.

While the other students talked excitedly about what they hoped to discover, Harry could only think of swamp creatures. He didn't tell anyone about his fears. He wanted to look brave to his friends.

As they hiked, Tony told the class information about the area. He said that they were about 380 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico and 300 feet above sea level.

When they got to the dig site, everyone found a spot in a sand pit to explore. Harry stood quietly in the pit. Tony could tell that he was still scared.

He started talking to Harry about things that had nothing to do with the

field trip. They talked about baseball, soccer, and the latest video games.

As they talked, they both began to dig in the sand. With his mind on something else, Harry was not so afraid anymore. Before long, he said, "I think I found something."

The rest of the class stopped working and hurried over to Harry. He had uncovered a shark's tooth that was four inches long!

The students wondered how a shark's tooth ended up in the northwestern part of Louisiana. Tony said that this area was once a part of the Gulf of Mexico. He took a case from his backpack and showed them fossils of sharks' teeth and sea shells that he had found in the sand pit.

Harry was surprised to learn that the area where they were digging used to be under water. After admiring the shark's tooth he had discovered, he was the first to say, "Let's go dig for more fossils. This is fun!"

- 1 How did Harry feel at the beginning of the story?
- A scared
 - B happy
 - C calm
 - D sad
- 2 In the story, swamp means -
- A a dry area of land
 - B a wet area of land
 - C a sand pit
 - D a high place
- 3 Sharks' teeth and sea shells were found in the area because -
- A Tony had hidden them there.
 - B a necklace was buried there.
 - C A giant wave put them there.
 - D it was once part of the Gulf of Mexico.
- 4 What is the story mainly about?
- A being afraid of swamps
 - B overcoming fears and finding fossils
 - C being at Lake Claiborne
 - D Tony guiding the field trip
- 5 Which of these is **NOT** a fact from the story?
- A Tony and Harry looked for fossils in Louisiana.
 - B The Gulf of Mexico is about 380 miles from Homer, Louisiana.
 - C Harry thinks baseball and soccer are fun to play.
 - D Tony worked at a camp on Lake Claiborne.
- 6 Which of these could have **REALLY** happened on the class field trip?
- A They found a shark in the sandpit.
 - B The sand pit became part of the Gulf of Mexico.
 - C Harry became afraid again on the hike back to the bus.
 - D The class swam in the Gulf of Mexico.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

THE FOSSIL-FINDING FIELD TRIP

Materials Needed:

NYSTROM 16" Readiness Globe

Water-soluble marking pen

20 " piece of string

OPTION: Notebook paper and pencil for answers

- ♣ Locate Texas on the globe. • Louisiana is a state just east of Texas.
- ♣ Locate the Gulf of Mexico. • Draw a line under the label for the Gulf of Mexico.
- ♣ Louisiana is located on the Gulf of Mexico. • Trace over the borders of all the states in the United States where they touch the Gulf of Mexico.
- ♣ Study the Scale in miles in the globe legend. • Work with a partner on this. With a piece of string, measure the *approximate* distance in miles **of the border** of all the states where they touch the Gulf of Mexico. How many miles is the border? _____
- ♣ What is the name of a country just south of Texas that is located on the Gulf of Mexico? _____
- ♣ There are many labels on the globe for bodies of water.
 - ♥ Make a check mark beside **25** labels on the globe for bodies of water.
 - ♥ What is the name of the large body of water that is located farthest **north**?

 - ♥ What are the names of *at least two* bodies of water that are located farthest **south**? _____
- ♣ Sharks' teeth were found near Lake Claiborne in Louisiana because that area was once part of the Gulf of Mexico. **Sharks live mostly in the warm water areas of the world. Usually, the closer water is to the Equator, the warmer it is.**
 - Make a check mark beside the body of water listed in each pair below where sharks would **more likely** be found.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 ___ Arctic Ocean | 1 ___ Arabian Sea | 1 ___ Caribbean Sea |
| 2 ___ Bay of Bengal | 2 ___ Weddell Sea | 2 ___ Bering Sea |
- ♣ Write about a time when you were scared to do something with your friends or classmates but later found out it wasn't so scary after all.