

Introduction

Welcome to the exciting world of W. Howard Stuart's **T-Rex**, where the modern world collides with the awesome power of the Earth's ancient past. This guide has been designed to help you and your students get the most out of these thrilling books. Not only are these books wonderful adventure stories that will appeal to the most reluctant reader, they also provide excellent opportunities to introduce your class to topics ranging from science to poetry, and everything in-between.

This teaching guide has been structured to give you, the teacher, a wide range of activities to choose from. Many are quite simple and require nothing more than ordinary classroom materials. Some are more complex, and would make excellent long-term projects for your class.

The Format of the Guide

Since your classroom time is valuable and limited, we have attempted to make this guide as user-friendly as possible. Each section begins with a **vocabulary** list in order to help you pre-teach any words that may be unfamiliar to your students.

The **Closer Look** section pinpoints topics that are mentioned in the story which you may want to help you students delve into more deeply. For these topics, you may wish to utilize Internet access if possible, or take a trip to the school library. Otherwise, a good set of encyclopedias will be all your students need to research these subjects.

In order to ensure that your students understand the material, we have included a short **Comprehension Quiz** after each **Closer Look**.

The **Group Discussion** questions offer your students a chance to participate in a thoughtful conversation about questions raised by the story. These questions can also be used to springboard into the next section.

Related Topics and **Teamwork Time** appear periodically throughout the guide. **Related Topics** offer reproducible pages to explore various subjects, and suggest creative ideas to help students learn to think imaginatively.

Finally, it's time to have some fun with **Teamwork Time**. These activities are designed to be completed over a longer period of time, and give kids the chance to work in a group and solve problems together.

At the end of the guide, you will find the **Log On, Look It Up, Learn More** section. We have listed Internet sights and books that will help your class explore even further.

Using This Book

With so much information available, it can be a daunting task to try to refine it to fit into your class time and be usable within the confines of your classroom. It is our hope that this guide will aid you in doing exactly that. As you incorporate these activities into your curriculum, you will find that your students will become more and more curious, and eager to expand their knowledge. They will begin to connect the ideas and topics of **T-Rex** to the world around them.

You may also find that they begin to suggest their own activities based on the books. We have designed this book to help you plan a lesson that is both educational and fun for your students, and for you. Using this guide, you will be able to enjoy a class that is filled with kids who are excited about discovery.

Now, get ready to explore! Join Nathan, Heather Ann, and their friends, as they test their courage and take on villains, with a little help from Rex.

Vocabulary

Use context clues to define the following terms. Then compare your definition to the dictionary definition. How accurate was your definition?

Introduction and Chapter 1:

Ancient	Determination	Plume
Annihilation	Dinghy	Predator
Aristocratic	Eon	Prey
Atmosphere	Eruption	Quarry
Climate	Fatigue	Quill
Continent	Flinch	Snout
Convulse	Flotsam	Tumult
Crystallize	Forbidding	Vegetation
Deafening	Instinct	Vengeful
Debris	Lumber (verb)	
Despair	Luxuriant	

Chapters 2 and 3:

Carcass	Gaping	Jagged
Conspire	Hatchling	Peculiar
Disinclination	Inelegant	Prehistoric
Distraction	Insulation	Stifle
Edible	Intervene	Talon
Eerie	Jarring	Reluctant
Elevation	Morsel	Treacherous
Extract	Overwhelming	Trespass
Exuberance	Miraculous	Wane
Fronde		

Chapters 4 and 5:

Mimic	Triumphant	Submerge
Awkward	Execution	Waddle
Sprawl	Shameless	Thaw
Slaughter	Mutter	Vertical
Vicious	Perilous	Spectacular
Fearsome	Inhabit	Descend
Crest	Lunge	Adrift
Numb	Mooring	

Chapters 6 and 7:

Serene	Nutrient	Bewildered
Tempestuous	Anchorage	Diminutive
Exultation	Dense	Frantic
Undulate	Extinct	Entrancing
Countless	Amble	Profusion
Exploratory	Fledgling	Tomb
Towering	Exotic	Territorial
Dispute	Canopy	Foliage
Tapang	Flanges	Eloquence
Hazardous	Cicada	Formidable
Glisten	Competitive	Quiver
Sever	Defense	

Chapters 8 and 9:

Crude	Suitable	Finagle
Valuable	Habitation	Plunge
Scrutinize	Sincerity	Decade
Anxious	Smirk	Trident
Versatile	Manipulate	Lash (verb)
Toxin	Squint	Derris
Lopsided	Erratic	Disdain
Ravenous	Capture	Serrated
Estimate	Horizon	Potential

Chapters 10 and 11:

Corrugated	Captive	Genetic
Stealth	Brash	Stricken
Evade	Tormented	Encampment
Halter	Driftwood	Liana
Compound	Ferocity	Compatriot
Perimeter	Tapir	Jostle
Awestruck	Adapt	Scamper
Abrupt	Ambush	Tremble
Marauding	Astonish	Observer
Alert	Purification	Frigate

Confront
Reinforcement
Vessel
Limp

Warily
Tragedy
Swagger
Invincible

Amputate
Heritage
Collision
Fascination

Chapters 12 and 13:

Affection
Venture
Swift
Terrestrial
Tension
Salvage
Obedient
Oblige
Suspend

Canine
Excursion
Pitiful
Aggressive
Interference
Papaya
Pierce
Extremity

Cower
Dexterity
Conch
Javelin
Feline
Grove
Resource
Mango

Chapters 14 and 15:

Regardless
Clamber
Pitch
Spiral
Subsequent
Lacquer
Potential
Intricate
Waver

Unmistakable
Radiant
Translucent
Arboreal
Erect (verb)
Veil
Ebony
Shimmer
Geometrical

Lithe
Reveal
Likeness
Multitude
Boisterous
Garish
Conical
Alternate (verb)
Ornamental

Chapters 16 and 17:

Halting
Laden
Interval
Tranquil
Lavish
Ivory
Industrialized
Annoyance
Gleam

Mahogany
Hostage
Tyrant
Bulge
Ally
Sulky
Lair
Obvious
Civilian

Meddlesome
Objection
Patriarch
Quiver
Insignificant
Strategy
Buttress
Clench
Obtain

Chapters 18 and 19:

Spectacle
Idle
Intruder
Ebb
Scholarship
Origin

Hornbill
Toil
Genial
Imitation
Counterfeit

Maneuver
Squirm
Jaunty
Confinement
Endure

Chapters 20 and 21:

Contraption
Commodity
Staccato
Feint
Sallow
Menacing
Damp
Bedraggled
Policy
Sovereign

Wince
Sneer
Auditory
Imperceptible
Vulture
Creased
Gaunt
Negotiable
Fable
Interrogate

Citizenship
Demonstration
Admirable
Fling
Socket
Meager
Imposing
Mercenary
Courteous

Chapters 22 and 23:

Nuzzle
Cunning
Reunion
Molten
Liberal
Devour
Reassurance
Capability
Subordinate
Salute

Arching
Sentimental
Commanding
Enraged
Prowess
Immobile
Procedure
Sufficient
Innard
Phenomenal

Toxic
Simultaneous
Sequence
Bolt
Haste
Status
Inactivity
Volley
Peril
Immense

Chapters 24 and 25:

Subsequent
Dullard
Barrack
Anguish
Cache
Retrieve
Rein
Otherworldly
Guffaw

Dictator
Lurch
Column
Perforation
Engulf
Onset
Impale
Stride
Stricken

Inferno
Merciless
Elated
Resigned
Zeal
Dangle
Velocity
Crossfire

Chapter 26:

Staunch
Cargo
Embrace
Abdomen
Jubilant
Intercept
Hardship

Infection
Recoil
Stout
Urgent
Abandon
Plead

Reckoning
Colossal
Stalemate
Colony
Haze
Retreat

Closer Look

Choose one of the topics listed below. Using an encyclopedia or the Internet, gather information on your chosen topic and present it to the class.

Introduction and Chapter 1:

Visigoths

Who were the Visigoths? When did they live? What sort of society did they have? Why does the author compare the Visigoths to the weather at the beginning of the story?

Tyrannosaurus Rex

What kind of animal was the Tyrannosaurus Rex? What are some good descriptive words for this animal? Are there modern animals that have similarities to the T-Rex?

Iceberg

How does an iceberg form? What does one look like? Name two events that might destroy an iceberg. What event in recent history involved an iceberg?

Equator

What is the equator? Describe the weather near the equator. Name five countries that the equator passes through.

Hammerhead Shark

What kind of animal is a shark? How do sharks breathe? What characteristics make a hammerhead shark different from other sharks?

Chapters 2 and 3:

Ross Ice Shelf

What is the Ross Ice Shelf? How did it form? How large is it?

Hemisphere

How many hemispheres are there? What makes them different? What separates them?

Latitude and Longitude

Why are they important to understand? How do they help locate places?

Fossils

How are they formed? Why are they important? What sorts of scientists study them?

Hydrologic Cycle

Describe the different parts of a hydrologic cycle.

Chapters 4 and 5:

Reptiles

Name five different characteristics of reptiles. What are some common reptiles?

South Pacific

What are some characteristics of this part of the Pacific? Name three islands located in the South Pacific.

Lightning

What creates lightning? Why is it dangerous? What precautions should be taken to stay safe from lightning?

Camouflage

Why is camouflage important? Describe three different animals that use camouflage.

Ocean Waves

Why do ocean waves form? How large can they be?

Chapters 6 and 7:

Shoreline

What are some things you might find at an ocean shoreline? Why is it important to protect shorelines?

Coconut Trees

Where do they grow? What do they look like? Where on the tree will you find the coconuts?

Sea Urchins

What makes them dangerous? Why are they shaped this way? Where can you find sea urchins?

Sting Rays

What do they look like? What are some characteristics of this animal?

Herbivores

Define this term. Name five animals are herbivores.

Chapters 8 and 9:

Bamboo

What are some of the uses of bamboo? What are some of its characteristics?

Lagoon

Define this term. What kinds of plants and animals could you find in a lagoon?

Germination

How do plants germinate? Why is it important to their life cycle?

Howler Monkeys

What do howler monkeys sound like? What characteristics make them unique?

Spoilage

What is spoilage? Why can it be dangerous?

Chapters 10 and 11:

Pirates

Name a famous pirate and give several facts about him or her. Are there still pirates today?

Domestication

What is the history of domestication? Why is it so important to humans?

United Nations

What does this organization do? Why is the UN important?

Scorpions

Why are scorpions dangerous? Where are they found?

Satellites

How does a satellite work? Name three different uses for satellites.

Chapters 12 and 13:

Jungle Survival

What are some important things to remember in the jungle?

Hydration

What is hydration? Why is it so important?

Tree Fall

What does a tree fall create?

Photosynthesis

Describe this process. What human process is it similar to?

Chapters 14 and 15:

Pygmies

Where do the pygmies live? What are some characteristics of their society?

Hydroponics

How does this process work? How does it differ from other growing processes?

Mosaics

How is a mosaic created? What do they look like?

Faberge

Who was Faberge? Why are his creations important? Where can one go to see artwork by Faberge?

Cathedral

Why are cathedrals important? Describe the design of a cathedral.

Ceremonial Carvings

How were carvings and drawings used before there was written language?

Persia

What is Persia called today? Name several characteristics of this country.

Chapters 16 and 17:

Archery

What are some uses of archery? What skills make one a good archer?

Obsidian

How is obsidian formed? What does it look like?

Duels

Define this term. Why did people fight duels? Name one famous person who died in a duel.

Diamond

How is diamond formed? Why is it so valuable? What are its physical characteristics?

Cartel

Define this term. Why are cartels formed?

Chapters 18 and 19:

Strategy

What are two different kinds of strategy? Why is good strategy important?

John F. Kennedy

Who was he? Why was he important?

Harlem

Where is Harlem? What are some of the problems it faces?

Cocaine

Why is cocaine dangerous? What does it do to the body?

Chapters 20 and 21:

Marines

When did the marines form? What is their history? What is their motto?

Military Training

What are some things that are important to learn in the military? Why is uniformity in the military so important?

Diplomacy

What are some of the characteristics of good diplomacy? What are some different situations that require diplomacy?

Helicopter

How do helicopters become airborne? What are some limitations of helicopters? Why are they difficult to fly?

Sign Language

Who uses sign language? How does sign language differ from English?

Chapters 22 and 23:

Strychnine

What is strychnine? Where does it come from? What are some of its uses?

Tourniquet

How is a tourniquet made? Why are they important?

Scent Identification

Why do animals use scent identification?

Animal Training

What is an important part of training any animal? Name some different reasons why humans train animals.

Chapters 24 and 25:

Volcano

How does a volcano form? What happens when one erupts? Give an example of a dormant volcano and an active volcano.

Geyser

How does a geyser form? Name a famous geyser and give some of its characteristics.

Missile

How are missiles used? What are some different kinds of missiles?

Negotiation

How is negotiation related to diplomacy? Give some examples of negotiation from everyday life.

Chapter 26:

Plantain and Moringa Leaves

Describe some of their characteristics and uses.

Pilot

How does one learn to be a pilot? Why is it a difficult job?

Group Discussion

As a class, or in small groups, discuss the questions below and share your ideas with the class.

Introduction and Chapter 1:

1. How did the beginning of the story make you feel? What made it exciting?
2. Suppose you were on a boat and saw an iceberg. How would you react? Would you be curious? Frightened?
3. What would it be like to live on a boat and sail around the world? What would you like to see and do?
4. How is swimming in the ocean different from swimming in a lake or a pool? Which do you prefer? What are some dangers of swimming in the ocean?
5. Why was it comforting to Nathan when he snatched up a piece of his headboard?
6. In your own words, describe how Nathan felt after he was thrown overboard. How would you feel if this happened to you? What would you do?
7. Describe a situation in your life that scared you. How did you react? What did you do?
8. What would it feel like to be alone in the ocean? Make a list of emotion words.
9. How do you think Nathan felt as he watched the shark die?
10. How do you think Nathan felt when he found his family?

Chapters 2 and 3:

1. What was the most exciting discovery on the iceberg? Why?
2. What would it feel like to discover a perfectly preserved dinosaur? What would you do?
3. What is suspense? Describe an event from these two chapters that builds suspense.
4. Why is it important for the family to keep a sense of humor?
5. How would it feel to camp on a prehistoric iceberg? If this happened to you, name three things you would want to have with you.
6. Why was Nathan so excited about the eggs?
7. Make a list of emotions you would feel if you discovered a baby T-Rex.
8. How do Nathan and T-Rex begin to communicate without speaking?
9. Why does T-Rex mimic what Nathan does?
10. What is anticipation? How is it used in the story?

Chapters 4 and 5:

1. What is the scientific definition of cold-blooded? What does it mean when a person is called cold-blooded? How do the uses of the term differ?
2. Why does Nathan's father decide to kill T-Rex? What makes him change his mind?
3. How does Nathan feel when his father tries to kill T-Rex? How would you feel in the same situation?
4. Which is more important: preserving history or protecting the future?
5. How would a T-Rex alter the modern world?
6. What is personification? Find two examples from these chapters.
7. If you had a T-Rex, what is one thing you would try to teach it?
8. How would it feel to be trapped in a storm? Make a list of emotion words.
9. Describe the difficult choice Nathan makes in chapter 5. Would you make the same choice?

10. How do you feel after something exciting or scary happens to you?

Chapters 6 and 7:

1. How is the mood contrasted, or different, from the mood in the previous chapter?
2. If you landed on a desert island, what would you want to do first?
3. How does Rex know when he will be fed?
4. Describe a place or a thing that you think is beautiful. Does everyone agree on what is beautiful?
5. Describe the family's tropical island in your own words.
6. Why was Heather Ann annoyed with Nathan in chapter 6?
7. Why do you think the family had "a strong sense of belonging" to the island?
8. Can something that is deadly be beautiful? Give two examples from the story to support your opinion.
9. What do you think was the scariest part of the rainforest?
10. Explain what is meant by the sentence, "the jungle never bothered with introductory lessons." Describe two dangers the family encounters while in the jungle.

Chapters 8 and 9:

1. Why is Heather Ann's father so excited about finding the bamboo?
2. How does Nathan try to convince his father to let him fish? Describe a time when you tried to convince someone to do things your way.
3. Why doesn't Rex like water?
4. Why doesn't Heather Ann want to catch a fish? What changes her mind?
5. What does it mean to have conflicting emotions? Why does Heather Ann have conflicting emotions about catching the fish?
6. What makes surviving in the wilderness difficult?
7. Who first recognizes something different about the campsite?
8. Why is Nathan scared when he discovers the food is missing?

9. Why is it so important that the family finish building their shelter?
10. Name three reasons that Nathan has become more mature.

Chapters 10 and 11:

1. How do Nathan and Heather Ann react when they discover the gunmen on the island?
2. Why have Nathan and Heather Ann learned to move silently through the rainforest? Why are the men no match for them?
3. Why do the men give up their search so easily?
4. Why does Heather Ann have the feeling that they are being watched?
5. What keeps Rex in his pen at night?
6. Why is it important to bring tapirs back to the compound unharmed?
7. What does it mean to bluff? How does Nathan's father bluff the intruders to the camp?
8. Why does Nathan feel sick when he sees the ship attacked?
9. Why don't the other soldiers help the one who is attacked by scorpions?
10. How do Nathan and Heather Ann feel when their parents are captured?

Chapters 12 and 13:

1. How does Heather Ann win the wild dog's trust?
2. How does the wild dog indicate that it likes Heather Ann better than Nathan?
3. Who would you guess is watching Nathan and Heather Ann? Why do you think so?
4. Describe three things Nathan and Heather Ann do to prepare to attack the drug dealers.
5. Why is it important for Nathan and Heather Ann to ignore the possibility that their parents might be dead? How do they manage this?
6. What does a sunrise over the ocean look like? How is it different from a sunrise over land?

7. Why do Nathan and Heather Ann only take enough food for the day from the jungle?
8. How does Nathan tease Rex while they are in the jungle?
9. What purpose does the coconut oil serve?
10. What alerts the kids to the presence of a trap?

Chapters 14 and 15:

1. What does Heather Ann do to show the child she is a friend?
2. Why does Heather Ann disagree with Nathan's idea for escape?
3. Why is it important for Nathan and Heather Ann to make friends out of the jungle tribe?
4. Would you like to live in a treetop village like the jungle tribe does? Why or why not?
5. How did you feel when you read the description of the chief's hut?
6. What is the most surprising thing about the chief of the tribe? Why?
7. Why did the chief feel it was his duty to help the pygmies survive?
8. Why is the chief worried about the pygmies' safety?
9. What does the chief mean when he says, "any prize worth having is a prize not easily obtained"?
10. How do you think Nathan feels when he realizes he never learned the chief's name?

Chapters 16 and 17:

1. Why is Rex's cry described as the most frightening thing about him?
2. What happens that embarrasses Nathan in this chapter?
3. How does the anticipation for the attack build in this chapter?
4. Describe three details that show how evil Juan Pascales is.
5. List five descriptive words for Brian Edems.
6. Why does Pascales want Edems to join the drug unit?

7. Why doesn't Pascales want to help Edems?
8. What is the most important thing to Pascales?
9. Would you want to visit Novaterra? Why or why not?
10. Does Pascales have respect for other people? Give an example from the story to support your answer.

Chapters 18 and 19:

1. Why is it important for Rex to have live prey?
2. How has the jungle changed Nathan and Heather Ann?
3. What would it feel like to be responsible for your parents' safety?
4. Why does Nathan think the men who enter the camp are poorly trained?
5. Name two ways the drug dealers mistreat their prisoners.
6. Why does Colonel Armstrong make jokes when he returns to the prison?
7. Why doesn't Colonel Armstrong tell his captors who he really is?
8. What do the prisoners do to keep their spirits raised?
9. What story would you share with the prisoners?
10. Why do the guards threaten the prisoners?

Chapters 20 and 21:

1. Why is Nathan confused when the marine asks him if he is North American?
2. What do you think makes the marine notice Nathan's eyes?
3. What does the word respect mean to you? Give two different examples of respect from the story.
4. Describe Charlie's attitude toward Nathan and Heather Ann. Why did the other marines react in a different way?
5. How would it feel to give orders to the adults around you, as Nathan and Heather Ann do?
6. Why does Juan Pascales pretend to be the prisoners' friend?

7. Why is it so important for the prisoners to play along with Pascales?
8. What happens at the end of the chapter that scares Pascales?
9. What does the phrase “drained the strength from their minds” mean?
10. How does suspense build at the end of chapter 21?

Chapters 22 and 23:

1. What problems do Nathan and Heather Ann encounter when they try to teach the marines?
2. How do Nathan and Heather Ann hunt together without being able to see each other?
3. Why are wild boars dangerous prey to hunt?
4. Why is it important that Nathan and Heather Ann think clearly in the jungle?
5. Why do Nathan and Heather Ann plan their attack so carefully?
6. What mistake does Heather Ann make in this chapter? Why does she make this mistake?
7. What past event saves Colonel Armstrong’s life?
8. Why is Nathan adamant about how the compound should be attacked?
9. How does Nathan feel when he is made commanding officer of the attack?
10. What event changes the attack plan? How does Nathan’s group react?

Chapters 24 and 25:

1. Why do the prisoners risk trying to escape?
2. Name two things done by Pascales that show he is a coward.
3. Describe four things done by Pascales’ men that show they are foolish.
4. How do Nathan’s parents trick the guard?
5. Why do the prisoners run to the helicopter?
6. What would it feel like to witness a volcano erupt? Make a list of emotions you would feel.

7. Why does hearing Rex scream make the prisoners feel better?
8. How does Nathan trap the guard in the jungle?
9. Why do Nathan and Rex run through the compound?
10. Name three things that give Nathan and Heather Ann the advantage during the fight.

Chapter 26:

1. Why is underestimating someone else unwise?
2. What event shows that the pygmy archer is brave?
3. What does Pascales do to try to save himself?
4. Have you ever been in a situation you would describe as a stalemate? Describe the situation and tell how it made you feel.
5. Why does Nathan refuse to get in the helicopter?
6. Why does the pygmy mother give Heather Ann her child? Why does the mother refuse to leave with them?
7. How does Nathan feel when he leaves Rex behind? Have you ever left something behind that you loved? How did it make you feel?
8. What happens that makes Nathan feel better as they leave the island?
9. How did the end of the story make you feel?

Comprehension Quiz

Answer the following questions about the events in each chapter.

Introduction and Chapter 1:

1. How long ago did the mother Tyrannosaurus Rex build a nest for her eggs?
A: 65 million years
2. Name two natural events that changed the Earth's surface.
A: Volcanoes, tidal waves, earthquakes, snowstorms, etc.
3. How did the egg survive for so long?
A: It was frozen
4. Why did the Spirit of Adventure sink?
A: It sailed too close to an iceberg
5. Why does Nathan try to swim to the iceberg?

A: He wants to try to reach a South Pacific Island

6. What attacks Nathan in the ocean?
A: Hammerhead shark
7. What does Nathan use to fight the shark?
A: A piece of his headboard

Chapters 2 and 3:

1. From what greater mass did the iceberg break off?
A: Ross Ice Shelf
2. What animals do the family find preserved in the ice?
A: Stegosaurus, Triceratops
3. What happens that scares Nathan's mother?
A: The eye of the triceratops opens
4. What was wrong with two of the eggs Nathan found?
A: They were cracked
5. What does the baby T-Rex do when Nathan tries to frighten it?
A: It mimics him
6. What does T-Rex want from Nathan?
A: He wants to be fed
7. What does T-Rex's skin feel like?
A: Cold and scaly, like a snake

Chapters 4 and 5:

1. Is T-Rex a carnivore or a herbivore?
A: Carnivore
2. What does Nathan's father want to do to T-Rex?
A: He wants to kill it
3. How high can T-Rex jump?
A: Higher than his own height
4. What does Nathan's father tell Nathan to do before the dinghy goes over the side of the iceberg?
A: He tells Nathan to find the food supply and put it in his pouch
5. How does Nathan manage to hold onto Rex and his father at the same time?
A: Nathan wraps Rex's legs around his neck

Chapters 6 and 7:

1. What is the first part of the island that Nathan sees?
A: Palm trees
2. How does the water color change as the family gets closer to shore?
A: It gets lighter, going from violet-blue, to lighter blue, to clear
3. How many volcanoes are on the island?
A: Two
4. How does Rex balance himself?
A: He uses his tail
5. What is another name for lianas?

- A: Vines*
6. Which is cooler: the rainforest or the beach?
A: The rainforest
 7. What does the family eat when they arrive on the island?
A: Coconut fruit

Chapters 8 and 9:

1. What is Heather Ann going to learn at the lagoon?
A: How to spearfish
2. What discovery is Nathan's father excited about?
A: The bamboo grove
3. What substance do Nathan and Heather Ann use to make catching fish easier?
A: A crushed plant root that stuns the fish and draws it to the surface
4. Why is Nathan so stiff when he wakes up?
A: He spent the previous day cutting bamboo
5. What does Nathan find when he looks for the buried food?
A: Human footprints
6. What decision does the family make after finding the footprints?
A: They plan to build the treehouse as fast as they can

Chapters 10 and 11

1. What alerts the gunmen the presence of Nathan and Heather Ann?
A: They hear Rex hiss
2. Why won't Heather Ann let Nathan go back to watch the gunmen's camp?
A: She wants to tell their parents what has happened, and she knows the men are armed
3. Why does Heather Ann fall off of Rex?
A: She feels they are being watched, and loses her grip on Rex
4. Why doesn't Nathan let Rex kill the wild dog that he catches?
A: Nathan wants to try to domesticate the dog
5. Why did the UN soldiers come to the island?
A: They are investigating a satellite pick-up of a drug lab
6. What happens to Colonel Armstrong's frigate?
A: It is sunk by the drug criminals
7. How do Nathan and Heather Ann escape from the encampment?
A: They throw scorpion bombs at the gunmen
8. What happens to Nathan's parents?
A: They are taken prisoner by the gunmen

Chapters 12 and 13:

1. What does Nathan call their wild dog?
A: Underdog
2. Why does Rex shriek in his pen?
A: He wants Nathan and Heather Ann to pay attention to him, instead of the wild dog
3. How do Nathan and Heather Ann spend their time after their parents are kidnapped?

A: They make plans and preparations for an attack on the drug dealers' compound

4. What does Heather Ann name the wild dog?

A: Tamarind

5. How does Nathan keep track of how long his parents have been gone?

A: Each day he cuts a notch in the rainwater collector

6. Why does Heather Ann rub coconut oil on Rex?

A: To protect his skin from insects

Chapters 14 and 15:

1. What does Heather Ann give to the child who falls from the tree?

A: A piece of mango

2. Why is Heather Ann surprised at the appearance of the child's mother?

A: The mother is much shorter than Heather Ann, even though she is an adult

3. How do the pygmies reach their village?

A: They go through a door that is concealed in the base of a large tree

4. What plans do the tribe make for Nathan and Heather Ann when they enter the village?

A: They plan to introduce Nathan and Heather Ann to the chief, and admit them into the tribe

5. Why didn't the pygmies regard Nathan's family as enemies?

A: The family lives in harmony with the jungle, and showed respect for its living creatures

6. Why are Nathan and Heather Ann surprised when the chief speaks?

A: He speaks English

7. What promise does the chief ask from Nathan and Heather Ann?

A: He asks that they take the pygmies away from the island

8. Why did the chief take care of the pygmies?

A: He was an outlaw, and wanted to repay his debt to humanity by helping the pygmies

9. What does the chief give to Heather Ann?

A: A Faberge egg

10. What warning does the chief give to the children?

A: He warns them that the spear traps will be reset when they return to the cave

Chapters 16 and 17:

1. How long are Rex's teeth?

A: Almost five inches long

2. How does Nathan know that the pygmies trust him?

A: They show him a hidden hunting hut

3. What does the pygmy teach Nathan?

A: Archery

4. What does Brian Edems want from Juan Pascales?

A: He wants Pascales to provide men to help him wipe out his Asian competitors

5. Why is it hard for the UN to fight the drug trade?

A: Evidence is difficult to obtain, and they don't know Colonel Armstrong is being held hostage

Chapters 18 and 19:

1. How does Rex show that he is hungry?
A: He opens his jaws and bobs his head up and down
2. Why does Rex need to be fed live animals?
A: He needs to learn to hunt, so he can survive on his own
3. Name two things that Nathan and Heather Ann do to prepare to attack the drug compound.
A: They cut and gather bamboo, dig holes, set traps, build booby traps, etc.
4. How do Nathan and Heather Ann trap the camp intruders?
A: They use a net that's concealed above the campground
5. What rule do the prisoners make for themselves?
A: They talk to each other for several hours each day
6. Where did Colonel Armstrong grow up?
A: Harlem, in New York City
7. How old was Nathan's mother when she saw John F. Kennedy?
A: She was five years old

Chapters 20 and 21:

1. Who are the intruders to the camp?
A: U.S. Marines
2. Why have the Marines come to the island?
A: They are trying to locate Colonel Armstrong and his crew
3. Why does Nathan refuse to take the Marines to the drug camp?
A: He doesn't want them to ruin the surprise attack
4. What deal do Nathan, Heather Ann and the Marines make?
A: Nathan and Heather Ann will teach the Marines to move through the jungle, and the Marines will help attack the compound
5. How does Pascales arrive on the island?
A: He comes in a helicopter
6. What does Heather Ann's mother do while she is at the table?
A: She hides some food in her clothing

Chapters 22 and 23:

1. What does Heather Ann give to Tamarind to take to Nathan?
A: A pygmy arrow
2. What attacks Heather Ann and the Marines while they are in the jungle?
A: A wild boar
3. Why does Nathan command Rex not to eat the wild boar?
A: The boar has been poisoned with strychnine
4. How long must they wait before moving the injured Marine?
A: Two hours
5. Why doesn't Rex kill Colonel Armstrong?
A: He remembers that Nathan told him not to kill the Colonel

6. How can Nathan and Heather Ann tell that Rex is not going to kill Colonel Armstrong?

A: Rex sniffs the Colonel, which he only does to identify

7. What happens at the end of Chapter 21?

A: The volcano erupts and Nathan and Heather Ann go to rescue their parents

Chapters 24 and 25:

1. Why does Pascales order his men into the lab?

A: He wants them to save the cocaine from burning

2. Where do the prisoners hide after escaping?

A: Under the guards' barracks

3. What does Pascales plan to do with the prisoners?

A: He plans to force them into the burning lab to save the cocaine

4. Why doesn't Pascales shoot the helicopter?

A: He doesn't want to destroy his only means of escape from the island

5. How does Nathan trick the guards into the trap?

A: He rides Rex through the compound so the guards will follow him. Then, he and Rex dodge the trap and it catches the guards

Chapter 26:

1. How does Heather Ann treat the wounded pygmy archer?

A: She ties a tourniquet around his arm, puts a poultice of crushed plantain leaves in the wound, then puts moringa leaves around the edges of the wound

2. Who plans to pilot the helicopter off the island?

A: Major Estevez

3. How does Nathan get on the helicopter?

A: His father and Colonel Armstrong force him on

4. What does the pygmy mother want from Heather Ann?

A: She wants Heather Ann to take the baby away from the island

5. Where does Nathan last see Rex?

A: He sees him running along the beach, following the helicopter

Teamwork Time

Work in groups to complete the following activity. Be sure to share ideas and listen to everyone's thoughts. Your work will go more smoothly if you show respect for the suggestions of everyone in the group.

Number 1

Building a Raft

Materials Needed:

Popsicle sticks

Dental Floss

Sink with stopper, or water table

Flat erasers

Directions:

1. Imagine that your eraser is a person who is stranded in the ocean. Your job is to use the sticks and dental floss to make a raft, which will support the person while he waits to be rescued.
2. After filling the sink or water table, tear off several ten-inch lengths of floss. Float six or seven sticks in the water and use the pieces of floss to tie the sticks together so your eraser person can sit on top.
3. Here's what makes it tricky: You **MAY NOT** remove the sticks or the floss from the water. Nathan had to tie his raft together while he was floating in the water. Don't worry about making your raft neat. Your goal is for it to hold together and support the eraser.
4. Do not ever let go of your eraser person. Remember, if you don't help build the raft, there is no way for your person to be rescued.
5. As a class, discuss how hard this activity was, and what made it challenging.

Number 2:

Protect a T-Rex Egg

Materials Needed:

Eggs

Plastic or cardboard containers

Anything that will be able to protect and cushion an egg, such as cotton, tissue, or styrofoam. Use your imagination!

Directions:

1. Work in groups of two or three. Each group receives an egg, and the group's assignment is to protect the egg from cracking.
2. Experiment with various ways to protect your egg. Then, see how well your protective measures have worked by subjecting your egg to different stresses.
 - a. Drop the egg from different heights
 - b. Throw the egg up in the air and let it drop to the ground
 - c. Roll the egg up and down different inclines
3. After each experiment, check to see if your egg is still intact. As a class, discuss whose egg lasted the longest. Why?

Number 3:

Design a Treehouse

Materials Needed:

Drawing paper
Colored Pencils
Crayons

Directions:

1. In groups of two, plan a treehouse, like the one that Nathan and Heather Ann built with their parents. Discuss how large you want your house to be, and what sort of unique features it should have.
2. Remember that your house should provide protection as well as comfort, and must be able to withstand the weather.
3. Make a rendering, or drawing, of your treehouse, making sure to be specific and detailed. Share it with the class, and talk about why you designed your house as you did.

Number 4:

Build a Volcano

Materials Needed:

Short bottle or jar
Sturdy flat base, such as plywood or hard plastic
Paper mache
Newspaper
Poster paints
Glue
Dirt
Red food coloring
Baking soda
Vinegar

Directions:

1. Glue bottle into place on volcano base, let dry overnight
2. Wad newspaper into the shape of a mountain around the bottle, making sure to keep the bottle opening clear
3. Use paper mache strips to cover the newspaper shape. Be sure not to smooth out the paper mache—this way, your volcano will look more realistic. Let dry overnight, or until completely hard

4. Use poster paint to color your volcano. Try to use color to give it different textures. Let dry overnight.
5. For even more texture, mix glue and water with dirt and sprinkle this mixture unevenly onto the volcano.
6. Put a small amount of baking soda into the bottle.
7. Mix red food coloring with the vinegar.
8. To make your volcano erupt, carefully pour the vinegar into the bottle, then stand back!

Number 5:

Draw a Timeline

Materials Needed:

White butcher paper or poster roll

Ruler or yardstick

Fine tipped pens or pencils

Directions:

1. As a class, make a list of all the events of the book. Be sure not to leave anything out.
2. Put the events in exact chronological order, or the order in which each event happened, from the beginning of the story to the end.
3. Roll out the paper and draw a straight line from one end of the paper to the other.
4. Write a short description of the very first event of the book at one end of the paper. At the other end, write a short description of the ending event of the book.
5. Fill in the rest of the events in-between, using small marks along the timeline to delineate different events. Match each event with a time, such as three days later, or five months later.
6. Hang the finished timeline on the wall.

Related Topics

Number 1:

Text: The term "Symmetry" means that something is the same on both sides. Think of some examples of things that are symmetrical, then use symmetrical lines to finish the drawing of Rex below.

Graphic: Bold line drawing of Rex on half the page, with the other half left blank for the student to finish the drawing.

Number 2:

Text: *Imagine that you are stranded on a deserted island. You have a bottle, so you have decided to write a message and put it in the bottle, so that it might wash up on a shore for someone else to find. In the space below, write a message that tells what has happened to you, and how you feel.*

Graphic: Stylized “scroll” with room to write a long paragraph.

Number 3:

Text: *What is suspense? Describe a scene from T-Rex that is suspenseful. In the space provided below, write your own suspenseful paragraph and share it with the class. Use at least five vocabulary words in your paragraph.*

Graphic: Lined space for the student to write in.

Number 4:

Text: *Below you will find a list of steps to follow in order to build a treehouse. However, the steps are out of order. Number each step in the correct order. Pick the steps that are not needed to build the treehouse, and put x's next to them.*

Fasten bamboo poles to walls and tree trunk to make ceiling frame

Tie bamboo together with vines to make house frame

Arrange seashells around the doorway to make the house more attractive

Makes sure you have all the needed building supplies

Cover roof with palm fronds

Cut vines and gather bamboo

Lay bamboo across strong tree branches and tie with vines to make the floor

Cut windows in bamboo walls

Design treehouse

Weave vines through bamboo poles to make walls

Lay out woven mats to make sleeping area

Construct vine pulley to help move supplies to the tree top

Graphic: Spaces next to each step for the student to write the correct number; picture of treehouse.

Number 5:

Text: *What do you think happens next? Will Nathan and Heather Ann return to Rex Island? Will they go home? What other adventures can you imagine for them? In the space below, describe what you think will happen next.*

Graphic: Lined space for the student to write in.

Log On, Look It Up, Learn More!

Check out the websites and books listed below to learn even more about all the things featured in the story.

www.amazing-kids.org/

www.useekufind.com/kidsnteens.htm

kidscience.miningco.com/msub2.htm

www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/

www.funbrain.com/

www.awesomelibrary.org/

volcano.und.nodak.edu/

www.exploratorium.edu/

school.discovery.com/

now2000.com/kids/education.shtml

www.acekids.com/kidshome.html

www.yahooligans.com/

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dukeofed.oshawa.on.ca/kidscorner.html

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Koch, Maryjo. (1994). **Pond Lake River Sea.** San Francisco: Collins Publishers.

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