

TEKST 8 Przeczytaj tekst. Po każdym akapicie zdecyduj, czy zdania podane poniżej są prawdziwe - 'true', czy fałszywe - 'false'.

Evolution has a sense of humor. Given enough time and enough mutation, competition, selection, pressure and hybridization the forces of nature can turn a lizard into a Chicken From Hell.

Scientists have just discovered a freakish, birdlike species of dinosaur - 3 metres long, over 200 kilo, with a beak, no teeth, a bony crest on top of its head, murderous claws, strong fighter arms, tall legs, a thin tail and feathers sprouting all over the body. Officially, it's a member of a group of dinosaurs called oviraptorosaurs, unofficially nicknamed the Chicken From Hell.

1. According to scientists the new type of dinosaur that they have discovered is really strange and cannot be compared to any dinosaur found before.



This dino-bird is not literally a chicken, or even a bird. It's definitely a dinosaur, and it lived at the end of the Cretaceous period, from about 68 million to 66 million years ago. 'It would look like a really absurd, stretched-out chicken and it would have been a cross between a chicken and a lizard,' say the paleontologists who excavated the fossils.

2. The paleontologists were surprised to discover a dinosaur that would have looked like two species combined together.



The fossils of three specimens of the new dinosaur were found in a sedimentary rock layer known as the Hell Creek in North and South Dakota. The formation inspired the nickname. But there's also the matter of appearance: It's a disturbing beast. It looks like it could stomp you, rip you to pieces or simply peck you to death.

3. The nickname of the Chicken From Hell derives from the scary body features of the new dinosaur.



It's a big animal, the biggest oviraptorosaur species found in North America. The creature brings to mind a huge flightless bird, such as an ostrich or emu. The weird crest on its head, which resembles half a dinner plate turned vertically, looks like that of a cassowary. The new dinosaur is loaded with biological accessories and adaptations, as if evolution had been inspired by a Swiss Army knife.

4. Scientists have figured out that the new dinosaur would have been a fierce creature that attacked its prey from air.



In *The Origin of Species* Charles Darwin wrote of the '*grandeur of natural selection, through which endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved*' — but he never saw this animal from a nightmare.

TEKST 17 Przeczytaj tekst, z którego usunięto zdania. Wybierz takie, które w najbardziej logiczny sposób uzupełnią kontekst artykułu.

The mythic belief in dolphins as supernatural creatures has been reinforced across the ages from the first written records of encounters with these animals. (1)

- A Strong belief in extraterrestrial powers shaped ancient peoples' minds.
- B In ancient times, dolphins were closely linked with gods.

Delphinus was a favourite messenger of Poseidon, who repaid him for his loyalty by placing an image of a dolphin in the stars. Aristotle was the first to recognise that dolphins are mammals.

- A The perception of dolphins as lifesavers is connected with beliefs that they possess special powers.
- B Dolphins' natural skills and qualities place them among the most intelligent creatures and the quickest learners.

..... (2) The ancient Celts attributed healing abilities to dolphins, as did the Norse. Throughout time, people as far apart as Brazil and Fiji have traded in dolphin and whale body parts for medicinal and totemic purposes.

- A Despite being attributed with supernatural features, there has been a number of well-substantiated modern reports of dolphins coming to the aid of humans.
- B On a number of occasions dolphins have been observed as they broke up sharks attacks by means of cooperative team defence.

..... (3) In 2007, for example, a pod of bottlenose dolphins saved the surfer Todd Endris, who had been attacked by a great white shark off Monterey, by forming a protective ring around him.

The intelligence and sophistication of dolphins is not just mythological. Decades of scientific research has confirmed that they possess large and highly elaborate brains, demonstrable self-awareness, complex societies, even cultural traditions.

- A Nevertheless, dolphins should always be perceived as wild creatures capable of an attack when in danger.
- B For the last decade dolphin therapy has been largely publicised by the media, who reported several successful case stories.

..... (4) The aim of the treatment is to increase sensory activities. Programmes take place in a pool with captive or semi-captive dolphins and therapists who assist the children who are asked to swim, touch, feed or pat the animals. Therapists work on specific areas such as speech, behaviours and motor skills.

Dolphin therapy is not a cure but it can help alleviate certain symptoms associated with children conditions by enhancing their healing process. Samples of blood were analysed before and after the therapy, and results showed that after swimming with dolphins there is a change of hormones, endorphins and enzymes. (5)

- A Children's love of dolphins is not unrequited. The mammals, too, seem to treat children in a special friendly manner.
- B It's clear that encounters with dolphins evoke a deep emotional response and trigger the release of deep feelings and emotions.

It is believed that children are more responsive to the therapy because they play in a pleasant environment, they are motivated to complete the tasks, they are happy and therefore they pay greater attention to the therapists' work.

For others, the healing principle is similar to that of sound therapy: rhythm and vibrational sound facilitate an altered mood. (6)

- A Thus, swimming with dolphins can create physiological cell and tissue change in the body.
- B Before they can play the role of therapists' assistants dolphins undergo a special training.

Dolphins have a natural sonar they use to emit ultrasound waves to localise things and to communicate. This process is called echolocation. Sounds emitted by dolphins are so intense that that they can create holes in the molecular structure of fluids and soft tissues. It is believed that dolphins' signal frequencies can have a profound effect on the human brain by modifying the brainwave activity and influencing the mood in a positive way.

TEKST 26 Przeczytaj fragment tekstu, a następnie wybierz odpowiedni tytuł dla każdego akapitu.

- 26.1 A. Living the life of a gladiator.
B. Life and death on the Roman arena.

Ancient Roman gladiatorial combat was famed for its brutality and spectacle, with man and beast alike fighting for glory, freedom and, ultimately, survival. Throughout the Roman Empire, gladiatorial combat was one of the most watched and celebrated forms of popular entertainment. Men, women and animals shed each other's blood in a fierce arena where, more often than not, there were only ever two basic choices: to kill or be killed.

- 26.2 A. From religious rituals to official feasts.
B. Glorification of the victorious emperor.

Roman gladiatorial combat emerged in the 3rd century BC in Campania, southern Italy, as part of funeral practices, with combat-simulated or not – put on as part of commemorations. It quickly evolved, growing in both stature and lavishness with increasingly large celebrations. By the 1st century it peaked with the adoption of gladiatorial combat into state-held games – extravagant, month-long celebrations put on for victories, coronations and religious dates. This upscaling in the size of the events led to the creation of dedicated gladiatorial schools, where slaves, convicts and prisoners were forced to fight.

- 26.3 A. The way of a gladiator.
B. Slavery in ancient Rome.

The gladiator schools were run by a school head who would acquire potential gladiators, then house and train them over a series of months or even years. The school would then either lease or sell gladiators to the state or private families. Nobles often invested in them and were encouraged to do so as it was seen as an acceptable business for the upper classes. Interestingly, while it was deemed proper for the aristocracy to own gladiators, the heads of gladiatorial schools were perceived as lowly members of society, with most referred to as nothing more than common slavers.

- 26.4 A. The origins of the *gladius* - a gladiator's sword.
B. Variety for the show.

Gladiator training was equally complex. Far from each person solely being trained to fight with a simple sword and shield, in fact individuals were categorized into a number of gladiatorial types, each differing in arms, apparel, armour, accessories and technique. Indeed, records show that there were over 20 different kinds of gladiator, ranging from retiarius net fighters, through

to cestus fist-fighters and on to dimachaerus dual-weapon fighters, among many others. Importantly, specific gladiators were paired against others of their same class, or those from one that complemented them, the latter designed to provide greater entertainment.

26.5

- A. Mastery of the arena construction.
- B. Scenarios for the bloodthirsty crowd.

Upon arriving at an arena, gladiators were stored in cells near to or under the playing field. Here they could prepare for their upcoming match, select their weapons at an armoury, and then be transported via a walkway or elevator to the arena proper. Matches varied in complexity, ranging from straight gladiator-on-gladiator bouts, which could end in death for the loser if so decreed by the crowd or emperor, gladiator-on-animal fights, or historically inspired team fights, where groups of gladiators would attack each other as a part of war or battle re-enactment.

26.6

- A. More than a slave slaughter.
- B. The weight of the emperor's thumb.

Importantly though, gladiatorial games did not simply involve gladiators fighting one another. On the contrary, a vast array of events and activities were held within the arena, ranging from animal hunts to musical recitals, theatrical plays to straight-out executions, announcements and raids into the arena by the emperor himself.