

Fabulous Fossil Find

No bones about it—Sierra Sarti-Sweeney, 16, is a junior archaeologist. That’s someone who studies the past by digging up and studying old objects. Recently, Sierra visited a park in Seminole, Florida. Just by looking down, she found fossils of a jaw and a tooth of an animal that lived thousands of years ago.



This art shows what a mammoth looked like.

“Most of it was sticking out of the ground, but we dug and found that it was even bigger,” says Sierra.

Sierra brought the fossils home and studied them, using the Internet. She found that the bones belonged to an extinct elephantlike animal called a mammoth. Experts studied the fossils and agreed. They say the bones are anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 years old.



**IN PLAIN
SIGHT** Is
this a leaf
or a bug?

PICTURE THIS

In Disguise

This may look like a leaf, but it's actually a bug! The leaf insect *mimics* the appearance of leaves on which it lives, which helps protect this critter from predators. The insect comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. This leaf insect is one of more than 600 species of creatures living at the London Zoo in the United Kingdom. Each year, zookeepers take a head count of the inhabitants at the zoo: everything from furry mammals and scaly reptiles to bugs like the leaf insect.

Animal Pals

Friends can come in all shapes, sizes, colors—and species! At the Taman Safari Zoo in Indonesia, twin tiger cubs became best friends with a pair of baby orangutans.

These two species would never get together in the wild. But orangutans Nia and Irma share a room at the zoo's nursery with tiger cubs Dema and Manis. The four play-fight and cuddle together for naps.

“Like human babies, they only want to play,” says zookeeper Sri Suwarni.

But the friendship may not last much longer. “When the time comes, they will have to be **separated** (kept apart),” says animal doctor Retno Sudarwati. “Tigers start eating meat when they are 3 months old.”

The tigers turn 3 months old this month. Better watch out, Nia and Irma!



Demas the tiger cub cuddles with Nia the baby orangutan.

NEWS MAP



SOLDIER TRIBUTE
A statue of a Civil War soldier at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

Top-10 Endangered Civil War Battlefields

- States that have an endangered battlefield
- Battlefield site

0 100 MI
0 160 KM



Source: Civil War Preservation Trust

Endangered Battlefields

A group wants to protect Civil War battlefields

Civil War battlefields are no place for new homes, malls, and roads, a preservation group says.

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) says these battlefields—places where Americans fought and died during the Civil War—are being threatened by development. For example, large parts of Tennessee’s Spring Hill Battlefield are being paved over for homes and stores.

“Tens of thousands of young Americans still lie [buried] in those fields,” said former Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson. He is a **descendant** of a Civil War soldier.

Wilson and the CWPT are working to raise money to buy battlefield land. They can then make sure it is protected. They also want the U.S.

government to protect more Civil War battlefield land.

A Divided Nation

The American Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865.

Southern states began to secede, or break off from, the rest of the U.S. in 1860. The war began when Southern troops fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, in April 1861. Eleven Southern states formed the Confederacy. They opposed the Union, which was made up mostly of Northern states.

The Confederacy disagreed with the Union about many issues. For example, it wanted to continue to practice slavery.

About 3 million Americans fought in the war. More than 625,000 soldiers were killed.

—Elizabeth Carney

MAP QUIZ

Use the map to answer the following questions. Fill in the circle next to each correct answer.

1. Which of these Civil War battlefield sites is closest to the Gulf of Mexico?
 A New Orleans B Petersburg
2. About how far is Spring Hill from Fort Morgan?
 A 300 miles B 700 miles
3. How many endangered Civil War battlefields are within 100 miles of Gettysburg?
 A two B three
4. Which battlefield is directly east of luka?
 A Spring Hill B Marietta
5. Which state has more of the 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields?
 A Pennsylvania B Virginia

What’s that word?

descendant: (di-send-uhnt) *noun*. One who comes from an ancestor.

Teacher Directions:

- 1. Print the articles.**
- 2. With a heavy black marker, draw a line through the main idea statement in each article. Students should NOT be able to read the main idea sentence.**
- 3. Make copies of the articles (with main idea sentences crossed off) for each student or for small groups of students.**
- 4. Make copies of the matching quiz for students.**
- 5. Hand out the articles and the matching quiz to students.**
- 6. Read the directions to students and help them complete the activity.**

Name _____

Directions: Skim the articles and predict the topic of each. Then read each article and determine the main idea. Match the main idea statement below to the correct article. Write the title of the article in the blank.

1. Friends can come in all shapes, sizes, and colors – and species!

2. Civil War battlefields are no places for new homes, malls, and roads, a preservation group says.

3. No bones about it, Sierra Sarti-Sweeney, 16, is a junior archaeologist.

4. This may look like a leaf, but it's actually a bug.

