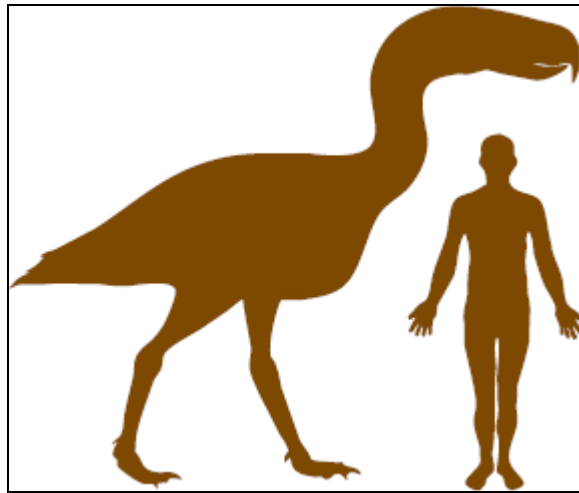


# Now, That's a Big Bird!



Stephanie Abramowicz/Los Angeles

*The prehistoric "terror bird" was larger than an adult man.*

A teenager recently discovered the skull of a huge **prehistoric**<sup>1</sup> bird in Argentina, a country in South America. Scientists say the 10-foot-tall bird had a sharp, hooked beak and thin legs. They think that the bird probably ate animals as large as sheep and ran fast.

The big bird belonged to a group of birds called "terror birds" that once lived on Earth. "It is an unbelievable creature. This is the largest known bird, with a skull bigger than a horse's head," says Luis Chiappe, director of the Dinosaur Institute, a part of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California.

<sup>1</sup> **prehistoric**: relating to times before written history

Question Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Now That’s A Big Bird” Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The main idea of this passage is
  - a. there were many kinds of large prehistoric birds.
  - b. the skull of a large prehistoric bird was recently discovered.
  - c. terror birds had skulls larger than a horse's head.
  - d. prehistoric birds used to eat sheep.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following is not a detail from this passage?
  - a. The skull was found in Argentina.
  - b. These birds ran very fast.
  - c. These birds were very large.
  - d. These birds could fly for long distances.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The author includes a picture of the bird
  - a. to show the color of the bird.
  - b. to compare the size of the bird to a person.
  - c. to show details about the bird's skull.
  - d. to show where the bird was found.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It is an opinion that
  - a. “It is an unbelievable creature”.
  - b. Luis Chiappe said, “It is an unbelievable creature”.
  - c. The bird had a “skull bigger than a horse's head”.
  - d. All of the above.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. This type of terror bird was around 10 feet tall. Is this the main idea of the text or a detail? How do you know?

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Question Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Now That’s A Big Bird” Answer Sheet**

- MI 1. The main idea of this passage is
- a. there were many kinds of large prehistoric birds.
  - b. the skull of a large prehistoric bird was recently discovered.**
  - c. terror birds had skulls larger than a horse's head.
  - d. prehistoric birds used to eat sheep.
- MI 2. Which of the following is not a detail from this passage?
- a. The skull was found in Argentina.
  - b. These birds ran very fast.
  - c. These birds were very large.
  - d. These birds could fly for long distances.**
- IF 3. The author includes a picture of the bird
- a. to show the color of the bird.
  - b. to compare the size of the bird to a person.**
  - c. to show details about the bird's skull.
  - d. to show where the bird was found.
- F/O 4. It is an opinion that
- a. “It is an unbelievable creature”.**
  - b. Luis Chiappe said, “It is an unbelievable creature”.
  - c. The bird had a “skull bigger than a horse's head”.
  - d. All of the above.
- MI 5. This type of terror bird was around 10 feet tall. Is this the main idea of the text or a detail? How do you know?

Students should say it is a detail. They know it is a detail, because the entire passage is not about height of the bird. There is also a lot of other information about the bird given in the passage.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary: skull, terror*