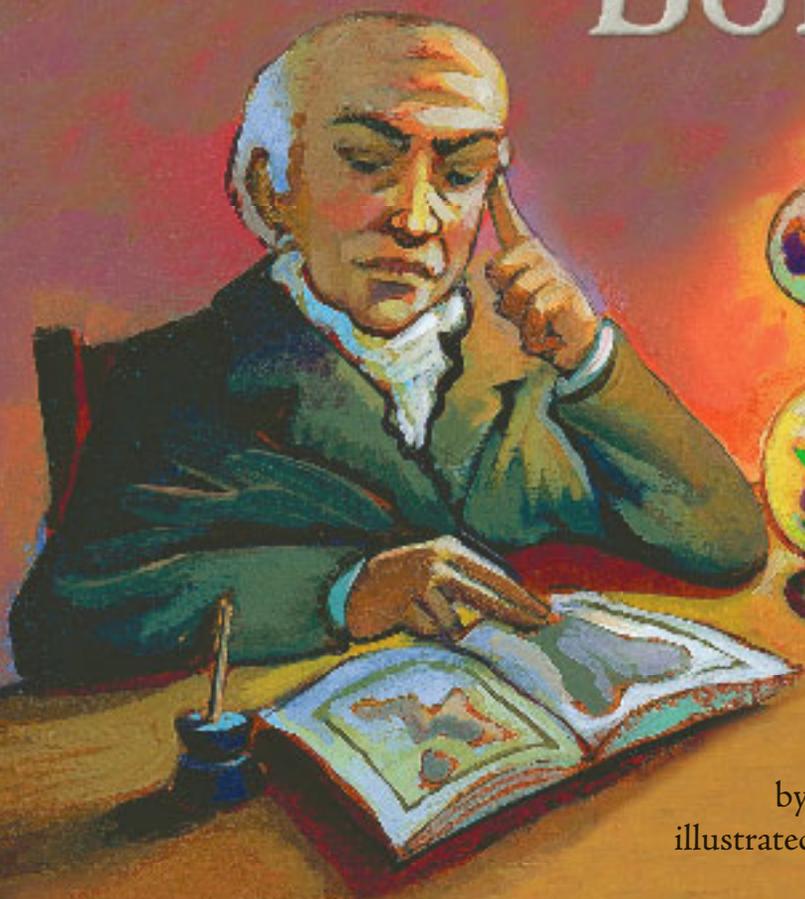




# The Mysterious Bone



by Robert Hirschfeld  
illustrated by Stacey Schuett

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN**

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BOSTON

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- Long ago, people in England found a big bone. They were **amazed** and thought it was from a giant.
- Later, a scientist named William Buckland **discovered** that it came from a dinosaur.



- ▶ William Buckland was born in 1784.
- ▶ He liked rocks, fossils, and bones. When he grew up, he studied them. He filled his house with them.



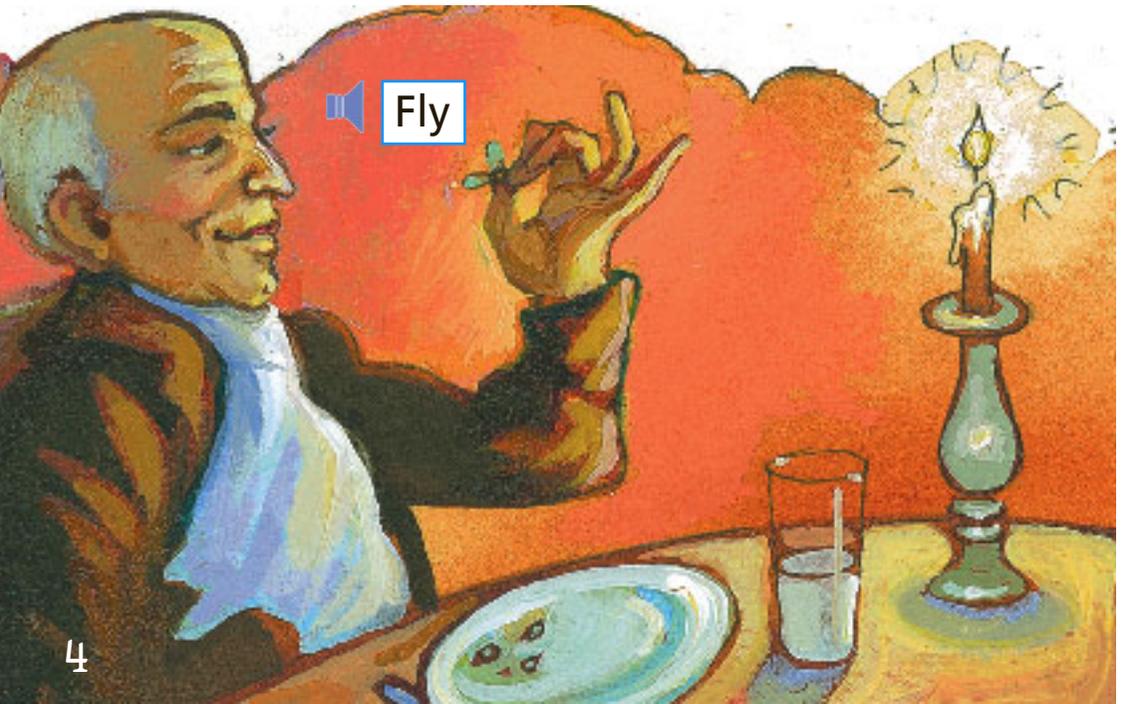
🔊 Buckland was very curious.

He wanted to know  
about everything.

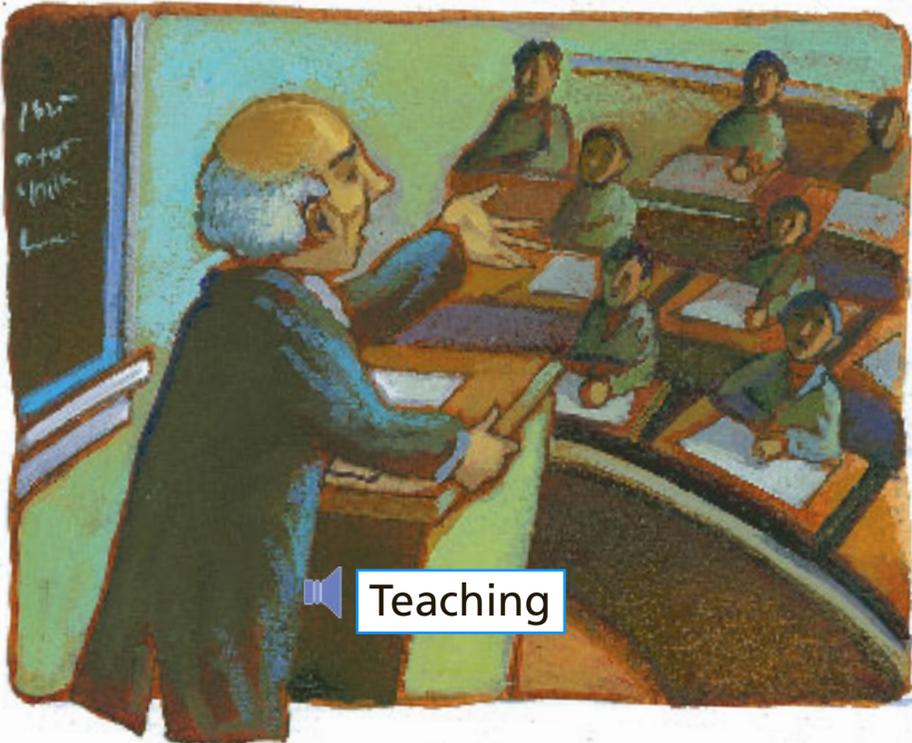
🔊 He wanted to know about taste,  
so he tasted everything.

He even tasted flies!

He did not like the taste at all.

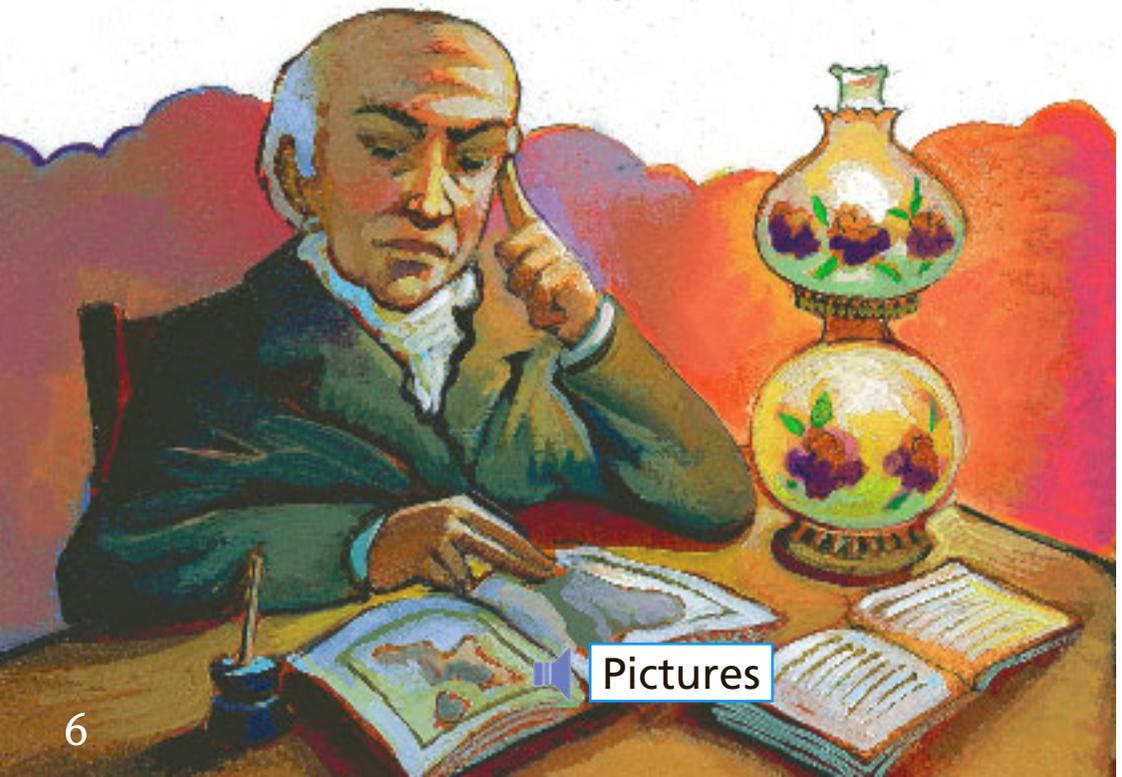


▶ Buckland went on many trips.  
He looked for fossils and bones.  
He studied them to learn about  
the history of Earth.  
And he loved to teach others  
about the things he found.



▶ Teaching

- ▶ Then one day, Buckland saw pictures of the big bone.
- ▶ People said it came from a giant. He didn't think they were right. He knew it was a thigh bone. But it was too big to come from any animal that he knew.



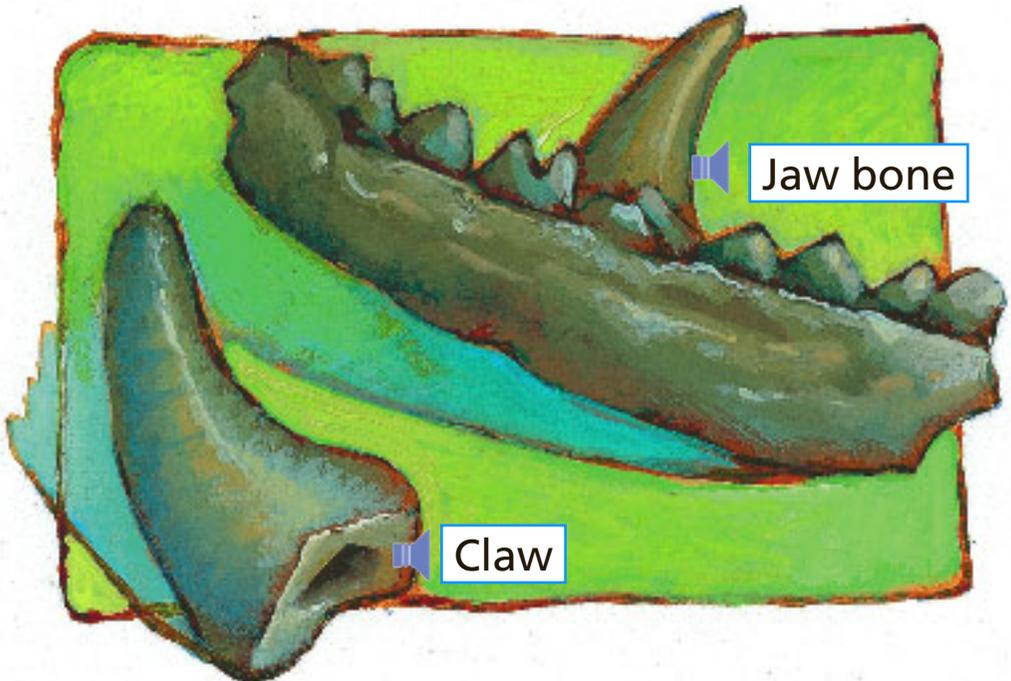
Pictures

Then people dug up more big bones, and Buckland studied them.

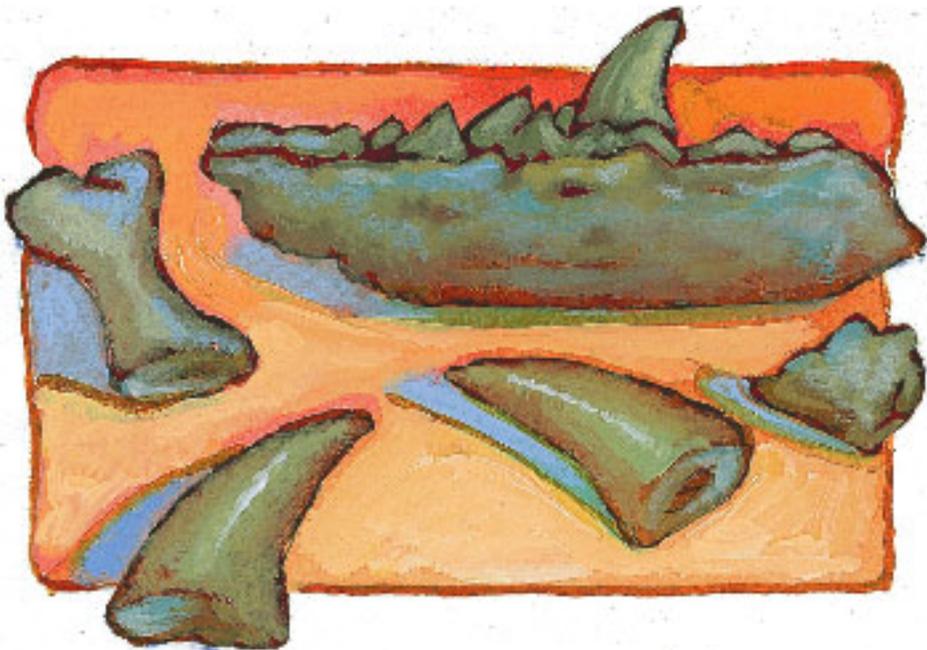
He had some leg bones, a jaw with teeth, a claw, and some other pieces.

They seemed to be from the same animal.

But what kind of animal was that?



- ▶ He knew some things from looking at the bones. He knew that the animal was 40 feet long.
- ▶ The teeth and claws meant that it was a meat eater. And the bones looked like lizard bones—very big lizard bones!



🔊 He asked people to **guard** the bones.  
Then he wrote down his ideas.

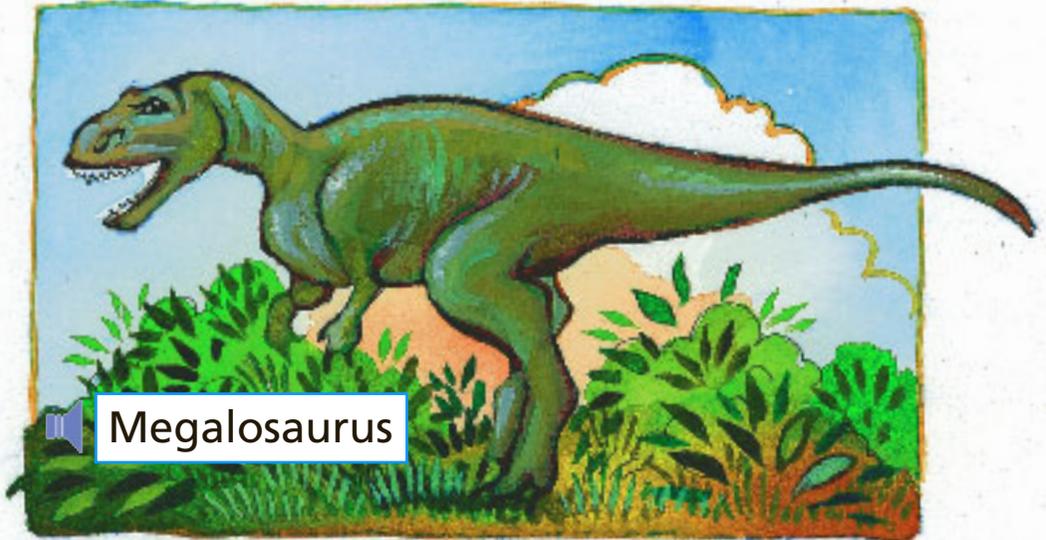
🔊 He named the animal  
a megalosaurus,  
because *megalo* means “big”  
and *saurus* means “lizard.”



🔊 Buckland was the first person to find out about dinosaurs.

🔊 There is still a lot we do not know. We do not know what color they were, or if they **growled**, roared, or hissed.

But scientists will keep learning more.



Megalosaurus

# Responding



## TARGET SKILL

### Fact and Opinion

People had many opinions about the large bone fossil. Copy this chart. On one side write opinions about the bone discovery. On the other side write facts that scientists discovered about the bones.

Opinion	Fact
giant big lizard	40 feet long ?



## Write About It

**Text to World** Why do you think dinosaurs are no longer found on Earth? Write an opinion paragraph explaining your answer. Use facts to support your opinion. Include details.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

amazed

discovered

exact

explained

growled

guard

remove

souvenirs



### TARGET SKILL

### Fact and Opinion

Tell if an idea can be proved or is a feeling.



### TARGET STRATEGY

### Question

Ask questions about what you are reading.



**GENRE** A **biography** tells about events in a person's life.

**Level:** L

**DRA:** 24

**Genre:**

Biography

**Strategy:**

Question

**Skill:**

Fact and Opinion

**Word Count:** 320

2.6.27

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