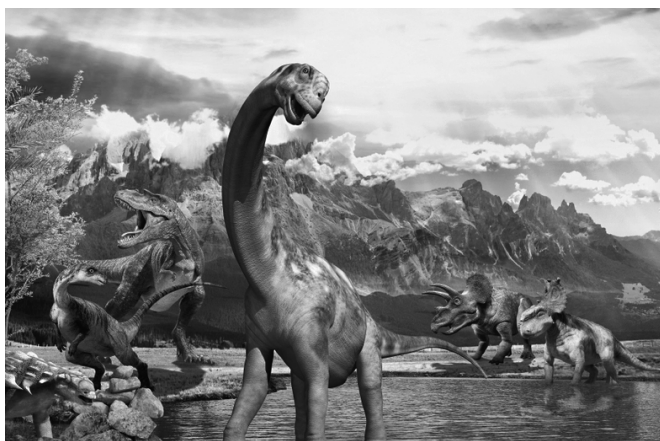


Massive dinosaur grave yard found near Sterkspruit



- 1 Geologists from Witwatersrand, Birmingham and Oxford universities have confirmed a massive discovery of different species of dinosaur fossils in Qhemerha village outside the small town of Sterkspruit, in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. This has attracted international scientists and researchers who want to experience what they called the dinosaur bone bed. A team of experts has spent more than a week tracing dinosaur fossils. A number of different dinosaur species remains have been discovered. Many villagers believe this discovery will put the Eastern Cape and South Africa on the world map.
- 2 Oxford University Professor, Roger Benson, detailing the discovery of extinct dinosaurs in Sterkspruit, says, “200 million years ago when these animals lived, this rock was mud and the animal lay down in the mud and then it was buried by more mud. This is why most of the bones are lying in one place. Later on, more mud would come and the mud started to turn into rock. As a result of that, we have a fossil dinosaur captured in hard rock.”
- 3 It’s not often that entire skeletons are found; normally partial remains are discovered, making the Qhemerha bone bed unique and of world importance. Jonah Choiniere, a paleontologist from Wits University, says the discovery of dinosaur fossils in one place is the first of its kind in the world. “In a bone bed which is a dinosaur graveyard – a place where lots of animals died together and were preserved – and this is very 33.”
- 4 Paleontology Master’s student from Wits University, Cebisa Mdekeza, says the discovery of dinosaur fossils in this part of the world is interesting for scientists and geologists. “This discovery means a lot to anyone who is interested in dinosaurs because it is very rare. In fact, for most of us, it’s our first time to find a specimen like this. Usually you will find one piece of leg, a bone or a hand bone but here, you have most of the skeleton. So, it is very important.”

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