



Article Guide: Tales from the Trilobites

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2018/04/11/tales-from-the-trilobites/>

Part 1: Who were the Trilobites?

Directions:

- Read the section of the article titled “Who were the Trilobites?”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Underline in the text where the focus questions are addressed
- Answer each focus question

Focus questions

1. What did trilobites look like? Which adaptations did they have that are similar to modern species?

2. Give an example of a habitat in which a trilobite lived and an adaptation that helped it succeed in that environment.

3. What factors caused the trilobites to eventually go extinct?

Part 2: An Index Fossil Worth Noting

Directions:

- Read each understanding question
 - Think about what you would need to know to answer that question
- Read the section of the article titled “An Index Fossil Worth Noting”.
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
- Answer each understanding question

Understanding questions

1. Limestone is formed in warm, shallow seas by many generations of coral building their reef homes. If you found a trilobite fossil in limestone rock, what kind of adaptation would predict that species to have to survive in that environment?

2. If you find the fossil of species of trilobites that what known to live 350 million years ago, what can you infer about the rocks and other fossils around it?

Part 3: Neanderthals today

Directions:

- Read the section of the article titled “Neanderthals Today”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Discuss with a partner how you would address the extension questions.
 - Write a response to the extension questions
3. Trilobites were able to thrive on Earth for 270 million years, longer than the dinosaurs. However, despite their resilience and adaptability, they still went extinct. Modern humans on the other hand have only been around for about 250,000 years. What kind of lessons can we take away from the trilobite’s success and eventual extinction? Explain your reasoning.
