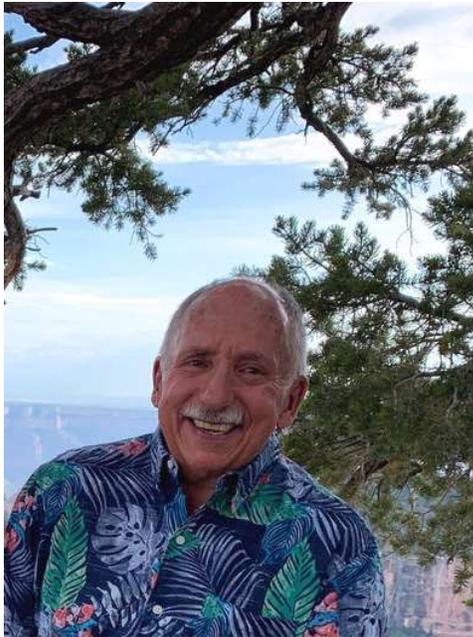




### Day 3: Flagstaff Festival of Science Junior Paleontologists

#### My Favorite Giant Dinosaur: *Seismosaurus*, the Earth Shaker



Dinosaur Dave Gillette

Welcome back, Junior Paleontologists! To find more about this program, read the first page of Day 1. The best way to participate is to download and print each day's activities, and use those sheets to find answers, draw or paint your ideas, or write a poem or story. We will call this your Junior Paleontologist Notebook or Journal.

## Remember

- Dinosaur detectives: all answers are good ideas.
- Dinosaur artists: all art is good art.
- Dinosaur writers: all stories and poems are good stories and poems.
- You are welcome to ask questions and try out your ideas.

Keep everything you make in your Junior Paleontologist Journal. When the Museum of Northern Arizona opens to the public, take your Journal to the front desk, ask for an official MNA Junior Paleontologist badge, and go see the fossil displays.

At the end of today's activities, I will give you an email address where you can send questions, your answers, your art, or your stories and poems.

## Seismosaurus, The Earth Shaker

For our next dinosaur, let's think BIG! It is HUGE. GIGANTIC. ENORMOUS. This is my own favorite LARGE dinosaur because I excavated it with lots of volunteers. That excavation took 7 years. I nicknamed it "SAM" which is short for Samantha or Samuel.

Sam is a long-neck dinosaur from the Colorado Plateau, in New Mexico. It is a Jurassic giant. Its name will shake you up: *Seismosaurus* which means "Earth-Shaker Dinosaur." Say it out loud: "SIZE-mo-SOAR-us."



Look carefully at this picture of Sam's skeleton at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. *Seismosaurus* is the giant long-neck dinosaur with the long tail. You can follow the neck all the way to the head, which is just below the flying pterosaur. The dinosaur attacking its neck is the giant predator *Allosaurus*. On the right side of the picture is *Stegosaurus*. All of these dinosaurs are from the Jurassic Period.

### **Dinosaur Detectives**

Puzzle: Can you figure out how long is the skeleton of *Seismosaurus* by using clues in this picture? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Dinosaur Artists**

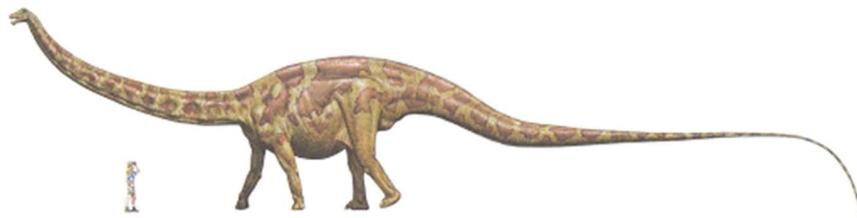
In the space below, draw this huge long-neck dinosaur and color it like you think it looked in life.

### **Dinosaur Authors**

In the space below write a story or a poem about this gentle giant.

**Answer:** How long was *Seismosaurus*?

*Seismosaurus* was about 120 feet long, or even longer. That is about 3 large size school buses in a line. The skeleton is so long its tail had to be curved backward to fit in the Jurassic Hall.!



### Dinosaur Detectives

Puzzle: How heavy was *Seismosaurus*? Can you guess how many elephants it would take to be as heavy as *Seismosaurus*?

**Answer:** As heavy as 5 or 10 elephants, or even more. Can you see why Sam is called the Earth Shaker?





Now, let us think about what *Seismosaurus* ate. Does Sam look like a predator, or meat-eater? No, this long neck could only walk slowly on all four legs.

### Dinosaur Detectives

Puzzle: What do you think this giant long neck dinosaur ate? \_\_\_\_\_

---

### **Dinosaur Artists**

In the space below make a drawing or painting that shows your idea of *Seismosaurus* eating.

### **Dinosaur Authors**

In the space below write a story or poem about where Sam lived and what Sam ate.

**Answer:** What did *Seismosaurus* eat? Answer: plants plants plants. All long necks had to feed on plants, all day long. And maybe all night long too! They had to eat all the time. Did you already know what the long-neck dinosaurs ate?



This photograph shows the excavation of some of the bones of the tail, covered in plaster to protect them.

## Dinosaur Detectives

Here is a huge mystery: what are these stones in the picture below? We found them when we excavated *Seismosaurus*. These stones were a BIG surprise! What do you think they are? \_\_\_\_\_



## Dinosaur Authors

In the space below, can you write a poem or a story about these stones that were found with the *Seismosaurus* skeleton?



This picture shows my hand at the excavation, next to a rib of *Seismosaurus* still in the rock, and one of stones that we found. Does this give you any ideas on the answer to the puzzle?

**Answer:** What are all those stones? They are stomach stones that Sam had in the belly. Did you figure that out?

Stomach stones are also called “gastroliths” which means “stomach stones.” Gastroliths are rare in dinosaur excavations. This was a lucky discovery!

Why were the stones in the belly? They were probably used to grind up the food. This was especially important because a long neck dinosaur would have to eat lots of food every day.

## A Flying Dinosaur



What is happening here? Is this a dinosaur rescue? Or something else? Can you imagine what's going on and write a story about it? Have you ever seen a dinosaur fly?

**Answer:** That was a full-size statue of *Seismosaurus* being airlifted by helicopter from a barn where it was built in Germany, to an outdoor museum. The statue measures about 150 feet from tip of the snout to tip of tail, and that is more than 4 school busses long! I was there to watch it being moved.

**Tomorrow:** My favorite weird dinosaur.

You can send an email message to me at [DavidDGillette2020@gmail.com](mailto:DavidDGillette2020@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you!