

Groundbreaking Discoveries: New Dinosaurs, Ancient Cities, and Hidden Eco

South America Science · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. A newly identified dinosaur species, *Dasosaurus tocantinensis*, found in Brazil, lived approximately 120 million years ago and is noted for its significant size. What is its closest known relative, suggesting ancient land connections?

A) A *Garumbatitan morellensis* from Spain

- B) A hypothetical species from Africa
- C) An unnamed species from Patagonia
- D) A species of *Tyrannosaurus Rex*

2. Archaeologists have confirmed the existence of a vast underground labyrinth in Cusco, Peru, extending from the Temple of the Sun. What is this network of tunnels known as?

A) A *chincana*

- B) An *Intihuatana*
- C) A *quipu*
- D) A *qollqa*

3. A new genus of tree, *Daturodendron absconditum*, has been officially named in the Colombian Andes. What common food crops does this tree surprisingly share a distant genetic lineage with?

A) Tomatoes and potatoes

- B) Corn and quinoa
- C) Cacao and coffee
- D) Bananas and plantains

4. In Patagonia, Argentina, a nearly complete skeleton of *Alnashetri cerropoliciensis* was discovered. This small, crow-sized dinosaur lived about 95 million years ago and is considered a 'Rosetta Stone' for understanding which group of dinosaurs?

A) Alvarezsaurids

- B) Sauropods
- C) Theropods
- D) Ornithopods

5. Recent research analyzing 40 years of tree records in the Amazon and Andes reveals that climate change is reshaping these forests. Which environmental conditions are most strongly correlated with a loss of tree species in certain regions?

A) Higher temperatures and drier conditions

- B) Increased rainfall and lower temperatures
- C) Consistent humidity and moderate temperatures
- D) Shaded canopy and high soil moisture

6. A new species of semi-aquatic rodent, *Incanomys parviauris*, has been discovered in the cloud forests of Peru. This species belongs to a group of mammals known as ichthyomyines, or what else?

A) Water-adapted mice

- B) Amazonian river rats
- C) Andean marsh voles
- D) Cloud forest shrews

7. In the Atacama Desert, Chile, significant advancements are being made in astronomy. The Fred Young Submillimeter Telescope (FYST), planned to begin operations in April 2026, will be capable of observing what crucial cosmic phenomena?

A) The earliest moments of the Big Bang

- B) The formation of exoplanets
- C) The atmosphere of Mars
- D) The activity of black holes

8. A new study on Amazonian forests suggests that certain low water table wetland forests, making up a significant portion of the Amazon's trees, have shown unexpected resilience. What positive trend have these forests exhibited during major droughts?

A) An increase in aboveground biomass

- B) A decrease in tree height
- C) A shift to more drought-intolerant species
- D) A reduction in canopy cover