

Read and Discover

Pronoun Antecedents

Lesson 33

Dr. Paul Sereno is a paleontologist. In 1991, **he** and his team discovered the complete skeleton of a 228-million-year-old dinosaur. Circle the words the boldfaced pronoun refers to. Then draw an arrow from the boldfaced pronoun to the circled words.

An **antecedent** is the word or words a pronoun refers to. When you write a pronoun, such as *he*, *she*, *him*, *her*, *they*, *them*, or *it*, be sure the antecedent is clear. Also be sure that the pronoun **agrees** with its antecedent. An antecedent and a pronoun agree when they have the same number (singular or plural) and gender (male or female).

See Handbook Section 16

Part 1

Circle the antecedent of each boldfaced pronoun.

1. Paul Sereno grew up in Naperville, Illinois. **It** is a suburb of Chicago.
2. As a student, Paul went on a behind-the-scenes museum tour. The tour inspired **him** to explore a career in paleontology.
3. Sereno attended Columbia University in New York. **He** earned a doctorate in geology.
4. In 1987 Sereno took a job at the University of Chicago. **He** began teaching paleontology.
5. He has also taught medical students. **They** have attended his class on human anatomy.
6. In 1988 Sereno and his research team found dinosaur fossils in Argentina. This find excited **them**.
7. In the early 1990s, Sereno focused on the Sahara. **It** is the largest desert in the world.
8. He and his research team discovered the fossils of several dinosaurs in the Sahara. **They** were especially pleased at their discovery of the skull of a T. rex-sized meat eater.
9. In the Sahara the researchers also found the bones of the world's largest known crocodile. **They** nicknamed the partial skeleton SuperCroc.
10. Sereno estimated that an adult SuperCroc could be 40 feet long. **He** based this estimate on the size and body proportions of modern crocodiles.