

### CER Homework

**W**ere dinosaurs cold-blooded, like today's lizards, or warm-blooded, like birds and mammals? A team of biologists at the University of New Mexico may have finally solved this mystery.

Warm-blooded creatures create their own body heat. To do that, they need energy—which means they must eat often. Cold-blooded creatures can survive for months on one meal. They rely on the sun to warm their bodies: They lounge in the sun or shade to regulate their temperature, leading them to act more sluggish than warm-blooded animals.

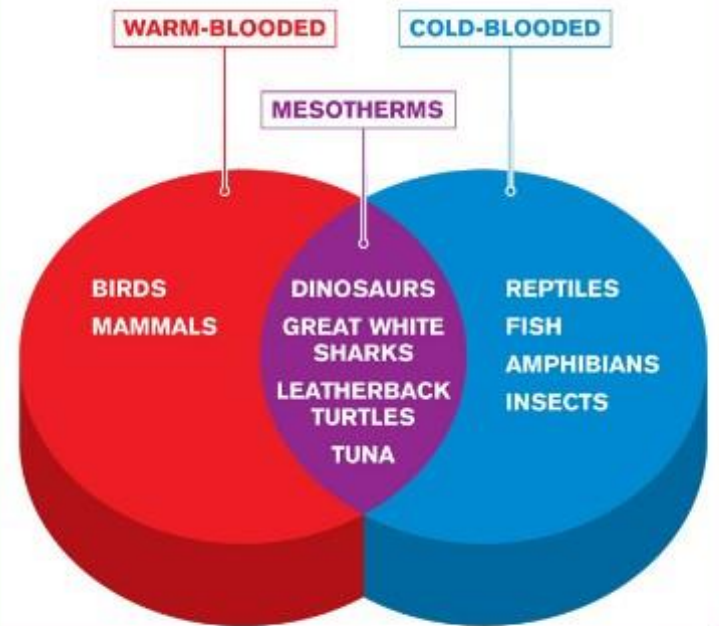
Bones contain clues to how an animal maintains its body temperature, so the researchers compared dinosaur bones with those of living cold- and warm-blooded animals. It turns out dinosaurs were likely *mesotherms*, meaning they used energy from both the sun and their bodies to regulate their temperature. Living mesotherms are extremely rare. They include leatherback turtles and great white sharks.

When dinosaurs evolved, every other creature on Earth was cold-blooded. Being mesothermic made dinosaurs faster than their competition—and helped them rule for millions of years, says biologist Natalie Wright, one of the researchers.

—Stephanie Warren Drimmer

### WARM- OR COLD-BLOODED?

The Venn diagram below displays animals that are warm-blooded, animals that are cold-blooded, and those that have characteristics of both. Name something on the diagram that surprised you and say why.



1. Read the article and identify the author's claim.

2. List two pieces of evidence the author uses to support the claim.

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3. What scientific reasoning does the author use to connect the claim with each piece of evidence you found?

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