

SCIENCE

A FOUR-LEGGED WHALE

A NEW species (kind) of ancient, four-legged whale has been discovered in Egypt.

It has been called *Phiomictetus anubis* because its skull looks like the Egyptian god of the dead, Anubis.

The whale is thought to have roamed the Earth 43 million years ago. Its fossil was discovered in Egypt's Western Desert, an area that was once covered in sea.

Phiomictetus anubis would have been approximately three metres in length. It had huge powerful jaws to catch prey and could walk on land and swim in water.

Whales are, of course, mammals. They evolved (developed) from land mammals that began to live in water for much of the time, like this one. Eventually, over millions of years, they became completely aquatic, the front legs developed into flippers and their hind legs disappeared.

This new whale species is an important discovery that will help scientists to understand more about how this change happened.

We're whole-y glad we've never met one of these!



Please complete the tasks in the homework book first.

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Science News

Where was the whale fossil been discovered?

Egypt

Russia

Australia

How many years ago is the whale thought to have roamed the Earth?

43 thousand

4 million

43 million

This whale has been named after which Egyptian god?

Anubis

Horus

Osiris

Why was it named after this god?

Its skull looks like the Egyptian God It looked like a pyramid

Approximately how long was the whale?

three metres

four metres

thirty metres

What was Egypt's Western Desert once covered with?

forest

snow

sea

Whales belong to which group of animals?

fish

shellfish

mammals

reptiles

What did the whale's front legs develop into?

arms

fins

flippers

What happened to the whale's hind legs?

they turned into flippers they disappeared

This fossil is useful to scientists because it helps them

Understand... ...why whales don't have legs.

...how whales evolved.

...why whales are mammals.

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Science News

Where was the whale fossil been discovered?

How many years ago is the whale thought to have roamed the Earth?

This whale has been named after which Egyptian god?

Why was it named after this god?

Approximately how long was the whale?

What was Egypt's Western Desert once covered with?

Whales belong to which group of animals?

What did the whale's front legs develop into?

What happened to the whale's hind legs?

This fossil is useful to scientists because it helps them
Understand...

Science News

Where was the whale fossil been discovered?

How many years ago is the whale thought to have roamed the Earth?

This whale has been named after which Egyptian god?

Why was it named after this god?

Why does it seem surprising to find the fossil in this place?

What was Egypt's Western Desert once covered with?

Whales belong to which group of animals?

What did the whale's front legs develop into?

What happened to the whale's hind legs?

What does this sentence mean? "Eventually, over millions of years, they became completely aquatic."

How many words can you make from the whales name?

Phiomicetus anubis