

THE LAND BEFORE WATER SAFETY

CHARACTERS - Park Ranger and Seamoor Safety

Park Ranger: My name is _____. I am a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at _____. I am also a wannabe paleontologist. A paleontologist is a person who hunts for clues about the past. I dig around in the dirt and rocks looking for fossils and bones of dinosaurs so we can learn what life was like on earth millions of years ago. Digging for fossils is hard work, but I have an assistant that helps me out and I brought him with me today. My assistant's name is Seamoor Safety. Seamoor would you please come out and meet our friends.

Seamoor: Hello boys and girls.

Park Ranger: Seamoor, I was just about to share our exciting news with the boys and girls.

Seamoor: Cool, I am glad that I made it in time to share the news.

Park Ranger: While Seamoor and I were looking for interesting bones and fossils we made an amazing discovery. We found dinosaurs that no one ever knew existed before. Show them what you did when we made our discovery Seamoor. *Seamoor spins around and runs siren.*

Seamoor: I was really excited and had a good reason to be. Let me tell you about these amazing dinosaurs that we found. These dinosaurs all lived near the water. We studied their bones and figured out what they looked like and how they behaved. It was a lot of hard work.

Park Ranger: Yes, it was hard work Seamoor but it was worth it. *Pick up a rock.* This is a fossil of the toe bone of a Sinkosor. This is what we believe the Sinkosor looked like. *Hold up a picture of the Sinkosor.* Sinkosor was a very strange animal. It lived in the water, but it couldn't swim. The Sinkosor was ok as long as it stayed in shallow water, but if it accidentally tripped or stepped in a deep hole it wasn't able to help itself.

Seamoor: The Sinkosor didn't do very well did it Ranger _____?

Park Ranger: No Seamoor, it didn't do very well at all. Sinkosor became extinct because it never learned to swim. This should teach us all a very valuable lesson. Seamoor, what is one way to be safe and survive in and around the water?

Seamoor: Learn to swim. Kids let's say that together. Learn to swim.

Park Ranger: That's right. Learn to swim. Take lessons from an instructor or have an adult teach you how to swim. Don't be a Sinkosor. Learn to swim. The Sinkosor probably would have been ok if someone was watching to make sure it was safe. Like one of its parents or another adult who could have helped when it got into trouble.

Seamoor: You mean someone like Buddysaurus Rex.

Park Ranger: That's right, a Buddysaurus Rex would have been a good choice. The Buddysaurus Rex was a very interesting dinosaur. This is a picture of what we think that the Buddysaurus Rex looked like. *Show picture.* It had two long necks and two heads and it was a water safety superstar.

Seamoor: Superstar is right. A very important water safety rule is never swim alone. Always swim with a buddy. Buddysaurus Rex never went anywhere without its buddy. It never swam alone.

Park Ranger: Seamoor, why would anybody ever swim alone?

Seamoor: I don't know Ranger _____ because even good swimmers can sometimes get into a situation where they need help. Whenever you swim make sure an adult is watching you in case you need help. Unlike the Buddysaurus Rex we don't have two heads so we should never swim alone. Always swim with a buddy.

Park Ranger: That's right, Seamoor. Kids we should never swim without a what? (Pause for an answer) A buddy that is right. Seamoor, it sounds like the Buddysaurus Rex did everything right.

Seamoor: Well not exactly, one day it made a very big mistake. One thing that we think that this dinosaur liked to do is swim near a volcano. One day while the Buddysaurus Rex was swimming near the volcano it exploded. Fire and rocks went everywhere and Buddysaurus Rex was never seen again.

Park Ranger: It didn't have to happen that way. Buddysaurus Rex could have chosen a safer place to swim. You should always choose a safe spot to swim and never swim near a dam, in swift water, or in an area where there are a lot of boats.

Seamoor: There are plenty of places that are safe to swim in. Pools and public beaches are generally the safest place to swim and they are a couple of places that are referred to as designated swimming areas. To be safe always swim in a designated area.

Park Ranger: Our last discovery was very interesting. Remember how we found it Seamoor?

Seamoor: What do you mean we found it? As I recall it we were searching along a jungle river when we came to a cave entrance covered with all kinds of plants and other stuff. I went in first to check out the cave, because Ranger _____ was too scared to enter the cave. It was very dark and I could hardly see a thing. Then all of a sudden I heard this terrifying sound. I was getting really scared but I stood my ground and soon realized it was bats. It seemed like millions of them flying over my head. Since I couldn't see anything and had encountered enough bats for a lifetime I decided to head back to the cave entrance. I was almost to the entrance when I rolled over something and got stuck. I yelled for Ranger _____ to come and help me. (She or He) pushed me off of whatever I was stuck on. We decided to pick it up and take it outside with us. Ranger _____ why don't you tell them what I was stuck on.

Park Ranger: It was a tooth of a Leapadactyl, which was a flying dinosaur. Its wings were huge. It would hunt for food by flying real close to the water. When it saw a plump tasty fish swim by it would plunge into the water after it. It appears that the Leapadactyl was not the smartest dinosaur that ever existed because at times it would not look before it leaped into the water.

Seamoor: You are right Ranger _____, I don't think that the Leapadactyl was very smart because this is what happened to it. One day Leapadactyl was very hungry and it saw a fish in the water that looked really good. It swooped down from the sky and plunged into the water after the fish, but it was not a fish it was a log. The Leapadactyl landed head first on the log.

Park Ranger: That sounds terrible. I bet the Leapadactyl never made that mistake again.

Seamoor: Oh Ranger _____, the damage was terrible. The Leapadactyl never recovered from the plunge. Sometimes water looks deeper than it really is. Logs, rocks, and other things are right below the surface and we can't see them. That is a good reason why we should never dive into unknown water. You should play it safe and look before you leap. Kids repeat after me. Look before you leap.

Park Ranger: Seamoor and I have studied these dinosaurs for a long time and we have learned a lot from them. The main thing that we have learned is that you should always play it safe in and around the water.

Seamoor: These dinosaurs might have still been with us if they had only realized some simple water safety rules; learn to swim, swim with a buddy, swim in designated areas, and don't dive – look before you leap. Kids lets repeat those rules together. Learn to swim, swim with a buddy, swim in designated areas, and don't dive – look before you leap.

Park Ranger: Seamoor and I would like to thank you because we have had a lot of fun sharing with you what we have learned about the past. These dinosaurs no longer roam the earth, but that doesn't mean that they still don't have something to share.

Park Ranger and Seamoor together: If you don't play it safe in and around the water you might become extinct.