

AUDIO SCRIPT

[Passage 1 – M1: Male Presenter; F1: Female Speaker]

M1: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the Careers in Science seminar. Our first speaker this morning is Dr. Andrea Nettle, director of paleontology at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Dr. Nettle will talk about her career, or should I say, careers. Welcome, Dr. Nettle.

F1: Thanks for inviting me to your fine college, Professor Mancini. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to share some of my thoughts on paleontology. You see, ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a paleontologist. Then, in high school, teachers told me there were no jobs for paleontologists and that I should consider another career. This was depressing news because I was very interested in bones and fossils and studying anything to do with the Earth's history. So, I majored in math and chemistry and then I briefly studied engineering before transferring to geology.

After graduating with a degree in geology, I spent several years working for a large mining company. My job was conducting surveys of potential mining sites. That involved exploring various regions for mineral deposits, and collecting and analyzing samples. In the process of examining the structure of rocks, I would occasionally discover a fossil. Whenever I found these ancient remains, I felt like an excited little girl again. Though I was older, the thrill of finding a million-year-old fossil had never diminished. Eventually, I sought the advice of a professor of paleontology at Hudson University. He informed me that there are *lots* of jobs in paleontology. He wasn't surprised at the ignorance of my teachers because very few people understand what paleontologists do.

So, what do we do? Well, each day is different and interesting. I have an office at the Academy, but I'm not there all the time. I'm involved with various research projects, which means I'm often working in the field, both here and overseas. In fact, I've just returned from Chile where I studied the fossils of a strange Jurassic dinosaur, the so-called *Chilesaurus*. This amazing animal lived about 145 million years ago and had the external appearance of a small horse. Four complete skeletons were found in the Patagonia region of Chile. The *Chilesaurus* belongs to the theropod group of dinosaurs, which includes the carnivorous tyrannosaurs. Of course, carnivorous animals are meat-eaters, but it is apparent that the *Chilesaurus* was a vegetarian. How do we know this? Well, meat-eaters have sharp teeth so they are able to eat other animals. They also have large heads supported by thick necks. The flat teeth, small head, and thin neck of the *Chilesaurus* are indications that it consumed plants, not animals.

The reason I'm telling you this story is to illustrate that it's impossible to anticipate what you will discover in paleontology because new fossils are found all the time. We have uncovered only a fraction of what's buried beneath the earth. And, believe

it or not, paleontology can be controversial. For instance, in 2010, researchers discovered that two famous dinosaurs—the Triceratops and the Torosaurus—were not different species, as was previously thought. However, a re-examination of the fossils revealed that the Torosaurus was a mature phase of the Triceratops. In fact, they were the same species. Hence, the poor Torosaurus was removed from the records. Now, some paleontologists have challenged this outcome and the debate continues.

Finally, paleontology may be about exploring the past, but it has a bright future. In fact, job growth is projected to increase by 10% over the decade. There are jobs in museums, universities, government departments, and environmental organizations. You can even be a consultant to the movie industry! It is important work. As the great writer Virginia Woolf once said: “Nothing has really happened until it has been recorded.”

M1: Thank you, Dr. Nettle. Now, I see several students have raised their hands, so perhaps we'll take some questions now...

[Passage 2 – M1: Male Student; M2: Male Student; F1: Female Student]

F1: Hi, Rick. Do you want to come to the cafeteria with us?

M1: Sorry, I can't, Susan. I have to practice my presentation.

M2: What's it about?

M1: Strategies to prevent cyberbullying.

M2: That's a problem?

M1: It's a huge problem, Bill. Research shows that over a million young people are bullied on social media each year. Approximately 42% have been bullied online. And the problem is increasing.

F1: You're right, Rick. This is important. It's happened to me. I'd like to hear your presentation. It sounds interesting.

M1: Okay. I'd appreciate the feedback.

A bully is a person who displays aggressive verbal, physical, social, or psychological behavior towards a less powerful individual—that is, the victim. Now, some people might think that bullying is a part of life, but I don't think we should just accept it. Is it acceptable to beat someone up because you don't agree with him? Of course it isn't. In the past, it was much easier to identify a bully. He or she was the tough kid

in the playground that pushed the other kids around. However, with the development of the Internet and the widespread use of social media, a bully's identity is less apparent. Today, so-called *cyberbullies* use technology to attack their victims. This includes spreading rumors, posting insulting comments or embarrassing images, and revealing the victim's personal information. Targeted individuals experience a lot of mental stress and other health issues. Many victims don't know their attacker because cyberbullies often choose random strangers to bully. Cyberbullies also tend to be anonymous, which makes it very hard to track them down...

F1: You mean cyberbullies don't reveal their identities...

M1: In most cases, they don't. They hide behind a screen name. Anonymity gives cyberbullies a license to behave even more offensively towards their victims. When people post anonymously, they'll often say things they wouldn't if their identities were known.

M2: I think that's true of everyone. I know I've said things online that I would never say face-to-face. But I've never deliberately tried to hurt someone, I hope.

M1: That's the difference between bullies and us. Bullies get pleasure from hurting people. It gives them a false sense of power that they don't have in their real lives.

F1: I'm sorry to stop you, Rick, but I think we understand the problem. What's the solution?

M1: Well, I propose several solutions. Number one: the law. Almost every state has laws against bullying, but less than half have laws against *cyberbullying*. That must change. It should be illegal in every state. And the law should be enforced, which can be difficult because of the anonymity issue.

Number two: education. It might be impossible to eliminate bullying, but we must use education as a weapon to fight it. Schools should make children aware that cyberbullying is real and wrong. Many schools already have programs and strategies in place to deal with it, so that's an excellent start.

Number three: parents. Parents have a major responsibility in this area. They need to be aware of the signs that their child might be a victim of cyberbullying. For example, a child might become quieter than usual, experience headaches and stomach aches, or suffer academically at school. Parents should monitor their kids' online activity and restrict the amount of time they spend online. They should know their kids' passwords and the sites they visit. They should install detection software on their kids' computers so they know what their kids are doing at all times.

Inside Listening and Speaking 2

Final Assessment

INSIDE LISTENING AND SPEAKING 2

F1: Wait a minute. I'm not sure about that. I'm concerned that spying on kids is going too far. Kids have the right to *some* privacy.

M1: Perhaps as they get older. But I think parents need to make sure their kids don't become victims of cyberbullies. Many children are reluctant to tell their parents that they are being bullied. They suffer in silence.

Number four: publicity. Communities should publicize that cyberbullies are committing a crime. Website administrators should make sure forums are properly moderated. Cyberbullies should be reported to the authorities. Thanks, that's it. Any suggestions?

F1: That was great, Rick. I suggest that you vary your voice level a little more. You know, raise it when you're making important points.

M2: And I suggest that you take your hands out of your pockets. It makes you look too casual. Use your hands to help you express your ideas. Like when you're proposing solutions, you can use your fingers to count them.

M1: Great, thanks, guys. I appreciate the feedback. Are you still going to the cafeteria? I'm really hungry now.

F1: Sure, let's go!