



Jigsaw - The Ultimate Challenge



Do I want to be a palaeontologist? Nah, too many big words to remember and I haven't got the patience to dig down to China with a geo-pick and a paintbrush. But, I must have some patience, as I do like doing jigsaws. I'm not a buff mind you, but I enjoy them all the same. We are working on a jigsaw now. A

Will you hurry up,
this thing's
HEAVY!



dinosaur jigsaw, but we don't have a picture to follow. I think there are a few pieces missing too but that just adds to the challenge. It's not a jigsaw of the whole dinosaur, it's just his hip ... or is it his shoulder ... Oh well there's definitely some vertebra anyway. It's a 3D jigsaw made by someone called Mother Nature 95 million years ago ... I really wish they'd put a picture with it.

As far as jigsaws go, this is only a small one, 447 pieces, but with it all put together, we may still have 100 pieces left. Unlike the flat variety, this jigsaw goes up, goes down, and pokes out in all directions where you don't think it should. Boy, it would be so much easier with a picture. We've got the pieces down to 276 now and we can

see a shape emerging. Several shapes actually ... not shapes of anything we can recognise, but shapes all the same. Hey, this bit's colour is just like that bit over there but they can't possibly join because that would make that bit stick out on the wrong angl... oh, it does stick out there, well okay, who am I to argue with Mother Nature. Now this bit looks good, it must join he... oh, THAT bit joins there. What IS this thing supposed to look like?

Hang on! There's a problem here, if I'm not a jigsaw buff, why am I putting myself through this? Hey, I know, my old man loves jigsaws, and so does my Uncle George. Mmmm, now under which pile of rocks is the telephone!

Judy Elliott

The bones that Judy is so patiently piecing together belong to a very large sauropod. Named Mick after his eagle eyed discoverer, Mick Washington, this dinosaur was discovered in the Winton district several years ago and has spent the past 5 years stored in the Washington family's back shed. Donated to the "Australian Age of Dinosaurs" in April this year, Mick is currently undergoing restoration work in readiness for study and display. The neck vertebra held by Tom Ashby, (left) is huge and obviously off a very large dinosaur but is it big enough to tip Elliot off the scales? Perhaps next year we will have the answer.