Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Argentinosaurus vs Australotitan Cooperensis

Duration: 12 20’’

[ABC Kids podcast sting – this is an ABC podcast]

*Dinosaur roars and exciting music*

Amanda: From diplodocus to dryosaurus, and paralititan to pentaceratops… Join us, as we pit two ancient animals against each other in the greatest race of all time!

*Music build-up*

Welcome to… the Dino Dome!

*Crowd cheers*

Amanda: This is the place where dinos race to see who can finish first. But it’s a little more complicated than a simple sprint along a straight line. The setting is always a surprise. From mountains to meadows and forests to sea floors, anything goes in the Dino Dome!

I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, but I couldn’t call today’s action without Dino Dome fact-o-saurus…. Tim Richards!

*Big applause*

Tim: Roarsome intro, Amanda!

Amanda and Tim together: Let’s get ready to roar!

*Musical build-up and applause*

Megaphone voice: From the titanosaur family, she’s heavier than a tank, tall as a three-storey building, and as long as four fire engines. Say ‘hola’ to the titanosaur from South America - Argentinosaurus!

*Dinosaur roars… Crowd cheers*

And it’s another humungous herbivore, as tall as a two-storey building and as long as a basketball court. Say ‘g’day’ to the Aussie giant - Australotitan Cooperensis!

*Dinosaur roars… Crowd cheers*

Amanda: Hola, Argie and g’day, Cooper!You are massive, classic long-necks!

Tim: Argentinosaurus -

Amanda: *(Cuts Tim off)* Argie.

Tim: Sorry – Argie is probably the biggest land animal ever discovered on Earth! And Australotitan Cooperensis – Cooper – isn’t far behind. She’s the biggest dino by far ever discovered here in Australia!

Amanda: So, who will win the battle of the behemoths?

Tim: They’re so similar, I predict it’ll be neck and neck!

Amanda: Good one. Let’s check out the landscape for today’s clash!

*Dino Dome theme sting plays: Anything goes in the Dino Dome*

*The dome rumbles and we hear mechanical movement and rocks cracking*

*The sounds of a bustling city can be heard*

Tim: I see… cement?

Amanda: Are they footpaths and roads?

Tim: Whoa! And buildings! Lots and lots of buildings!

Amanda: Skyscrapers… trains… shopping malls…

Tim: It’s a city!

Amanda: Thank goodness there aren’t any people around!

Tim: There’s a park in the middle with a bit of grass and a few trees, so at least a tiny part of the course might be slightly familiar to our plant-eaters!

Amanda: This is going to be weird, Tim! This is a landscape that’s completely foreign to today’s racers, a place that popped up millions and millions of years after these creatures ruled the land. The course will take them over the row houses, past the mall, and through the park to the finish line.

Tim: It’s a race through a modern metropolis!

Amanda: On your marks… get set….

Amanda, Tim and Megaphone voice: Dinos go!

*Starting siren and race music starts*

*Huge stomping sounds as the dinosaurs move off*

Amanda: Holy hadrosaurs! You can feel the ground moving with each stupendous stomp!

Tim: Those stomps are huge, but neither dino is particularly quick. These are super-sized plodders. The bigger of the two, Argie, is slower than most people walk

Amanda: What?! But their steps are so big!

Tim: Bones, muscles and posture all play a part, and most experts agree, the heavier the dino, the slower it moved

Amanda: Well, this snail race just got interesting - the dinos have headed in opposite directions along separate side streets!

Tim: Let’s watch on the Dino Drone so we can keep an eye on both

*Camera zooming in and out, focusing*

Amanda: Argie is slightly in front, plodding along a more direct route to the finish line. She’s walking along a street of mostly two-storey houses, so she can see straight over the rooftops!

Tim: Meanwhile, Cooper looks a little lost. She’s not quite as tall as Argie, about the same height as the buildings in her street, so she’s blindly following the road ahead. Look out!

*Big wooden crash sound*

Amanda: Yikes! Argie just crushed that bench!

Tim: Well, like you said, Amanda - luckily there aren’t any people in this city at risk of squish!

Amanda: Argie’s taking a right-hand turn onto a main road. That should take her straight to the train station. And Cooper’s turning onto the same road from the left! Watch out!

*Huge crash*

Tim: Woah, Cooper just sent that tram tumbling down its tracks!

Amanda: Next stop, Flatsville! Argie is out in front after Cooper got tangled in those trams. But Argie doesn’t have much of a lead, she’s approaching the shopping centre now

Tim: What’s she doing?

Amanda: She’s lowering her neck way down to ground level and –

*Door bell on automatic door chimes and doors slide open*

Amanda: She’s sticking her head inside the entrance!

Tim: Maybe she’s hunting for some prehistoric prices

Amanda: What a goose! Her head barely fits

*Doorbell chimes again and doors squeak and rattle. Dinosaur groans*

Amanda: She’s stuck!

Tim: The sliding doors have closed on her neck!

Amanda: And it looks like they’re jammed tight

Tim: Automatic doors are a very modern invention. Argie’s got no clue what’s happening

*Dinosaur stomps approaching*

Amanda: Here comes Cooper! She’s slowing down, if that’s even possible

Tim: She’s curious about what’s happening to Argie. She’s wandering closer…

*Doorbell chimes again and doors open*

Amanda: Woohoo! She set off the sensor! Argie’s free! And she’s not wasting any time getting out of that doorway. She’s turning towards Cooper and… aw! Is she giving her a neck nuzzle?

Tim: I think she’s saying thank you. Not totally surprising behaviour - Argie is a herd animal, and you’d assume friendliness is important when you’re travelling in groups.

Amanda: Now Cooper’s leading the way, she’s heading away from the shopping centre and down a… lane?

Tim: That looks way too narrow for a dino her size. These streets weren’t built for titanosaurs!

Amanda: She’s giving it a go. Cooper’s squeezing slowly through the lane between two, tall brick walls

*Falling bricks, rubble, shaking, heavy plodding steps*

Amanda: Ooft – she’s gonna make it out but she’s taking the laneway with her. It’s absolute mayhem down there

*Dinosaur groans*

Tim: Well, at least Cooper’s made the laneway wider for Argie

Amanda: She demolished it! Argie can’t follow that. Oh, she’s looking for another way

Tim: Yes, she’s got those extra few metres of height on Cooper. Look! She’s like she’s found a wider avenue to the park

Amanda: But that will take her through the train station!

Tim: Ever seen a dinosaur play hopscotch?

Amanda: No...?

Tim: I think we’re about to!

Amanda: Easy does it, Argie! There are just three platforms to cross and you’re in the park.

Tim: She could get stuck on the tracks; her legs aren’t very long. All her height comes from her neck.

Amanda: What about that last one? There’s a train on it!

Tim: Not for long!

*Soaring train ending in a crash*

Amanda: She sent the carriage flying with her tail like a giant whip!

Amanda: You’d think Cooper would’ve used the extra time to surge ahead, but it looks like she’s taking a break in the park!

Tim: She’s stripping the leaves off those tall pines

Amanda: Leave some food for Argie!

Tim: These dinos need plenty of plants for energy and growth. In fact, when Argie was hatched, she was no heavier than a pet cat!

Amanda: What?! But she’s bigger than a building now! Talk about plant power!

*Long, rumbling burp*

Tim: Sounds like Cooper’s had enough

Amanda: She’s leaving the park and heading down a street lined with skyscrapers! The finish line is right at the end of that street! Go for it, Coop!

Tim: Meanwhile Argie’s caught up and taking a drink from the fountain

Amanda: There’s pigeon poo in there!

Tim: She doesn’t seem to mind

Amanda: Hang on a sec – Cooper’s stopped. Something’s caught her eye

Tim: She’s focussed on one particular building

Amanda: It’s a very tall, very shiny, skyscraper

Tim: Oh, Cooper can see her reflection in the mirrored glass

Amanda: She’s mesmerised. It’s understandable, Coop – you’re a very handsome dino!

Tim: She’s never looked in a mirror before. She doesn’t understand that she’s looking at herself. She thinks it’s another Austrolotitan Cooperensis staring back at her

*Heavy bump against glass window*

Amanda: Oh no! Don’t do that Cooper! You’ll hurt yourself if you keep bumping into that massive building!

Tim: She’s trying to interact with the other dino. Except it’s not another dino, it’s her reflection!

*Bigger bump into window*

Amanda: Oh my gorgosaurus! Her ramming is shaking the building! Get out of there, Cooper – before it collapses!

*Huge crash as building collapses*

Amanda: …. Cooper? Are you okay?

Tim: Cooper has fallen in a heap amongst the rubble

Amanda: Here comes Argie. She’s slowing down to inspect the scene

Tim: Argie’s bending down

Amanda: She’s giving Cooper a gentle nudge

*Cooper moves and shakes off rubble*

Tim and Amanda together: She’s okay!

*Crowd cheers*

Amanda: Cooper’s steadily bending her legs and getting back on all fours. On ya, Coop. It’ll be just a few, slow, but gigantic steps towards the finish line…

Tim: Told you it would be neck and neck

Amanda: They’re side by side! For a titanosaur tie!

*The finishing siren sounds and the crowd cheers*

Megaphone voice:Winner!

Amanda: I’m gonna head down while the dust settles, and you can walk our Domers through an action replay…

Tim: Our two behemoths started in opposite directions through the city. Argie crushed a bench, while Cooper trod on a tram, before Argie got her head stuck in a shopping centre doorway. The pair then headed into a laneway where Cooper squeezed through, bringing the walls down around her. Leaving Argie to sidestep through the station and send a train flying with her whip-like tail. Cooper fuelled up in the park before knocking down a skyscraper with a friendly nudge. Argie helped dust her off before both our dinos headed towards the finish line, for a tie of the titanosaurs!

Amanda: But, right now, it’s time to reward our winners. Cooper, Argie– here is your Dino Dome Cup!

Tim: Argie’s got one of the handles in her teeth, but what’s Cooper doing?

Amanda: Oh! The cup is really shiny! Cooper can’t stop staring at her reflection in the metal

Tim: We could be here for a while

Amanda: Let’s cut today’s broadcast there, and see you next week for the greatest race of all time in the Dino Dome!

*Dino Dome theme music ends as crowd cheers*

Disclaimer: No dinosaurs were harmed in the making of Dino Dome, as they’re all extinct. Therefore, all sounds in Dino Dome were made by humans and animals, including vultures, emus, camels and goats. *[Goat bleats]* Yes, goats.

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