Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Megalodon vs Mosasaurus

Duration: 12’ 29’’

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

*[Dinosaur roars and exciting music]*

**Amanda:** From diplodocus to dryptosaurus… paralititan to polacanthus… and yinlong to yunnanosaurus… it’s time to pit another dino duo tooth-to-tail in the greatest race of all time!

*[Music builds as crowd cheers]*

Welcome to… the Dino Dome!

*[Big applause]*

Every week, a prehistoric pair races in the dome to see who can reach the finish line first… it might be a sprint or a marathon, but it’s not that simple… the terrain is never the same… from snow to swamps…

*[An icy wind blows over the sounds of a swamp. A frog croaks and splashes into water]*

Anything goes in the Dino Dome!

I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, but I couldn’t handle today’s action without the help of Dino Dome fact-o-saurus, Tim Richards!

**Tim:** Thanks Amanda, now let’s head straight to centre-Dome to see today’s match-up…

**Amanda, Tim & Megaphone voice:** Let’s get ready to roar!

*[Music build under the crowd applause. A boxing ring bell dings three times]*

**Megaphone Voice**: Is it a snake? A whale? An alligator? It’s a cross between the lot! Thrash and gnash for the carnivorous… Mosasaurus!

*[Mosasaurus grunts… Crowd cheers]*

And it’s another scary swimmer… Weighing as much as 12 African elephants… This is one frightening fish… All the way from the deep blue sea… The world famous supersized shark… Flap those fins… it’s Megalodon!

*[Megalodon growls… Crowd cheers]*

**Tim:** Hold up, hold up…

*[Theme song cuts out abruptly. The crowd gasps]*

**Amanda:** What is it, Tim?

**Tim:** This is Dino Dome, right?

**Amanda:** Yes…

**Tim:** It’s not Bird Dome, or Bug Dome, or Fish Dome?

**Amanda:** What are you getting at, Tim?

**Tim:** Megalodon and Mosasaurus are… not dinosaurs!

**Amanda:** Huh?!

**Tim:** The megalodon didn’t even live at the same time as the dinosaurs… it’s from the Cenozoic not the Mesozoic era…

And Mosasaurus is a marine reptile not a dinosaur…

In fact, they’re distant cousins of snakes and goannas and…

**Amanda:** *(cuts off Tim)* Oh, c’mon! Potato potarto… who cares if they’re technically water lizards or monster sharks… I want to see them race!

*[Crowd begins to cheer]*

**Tim:** (*debating with himself*) Ok, well, I guess, but really…

*[Theme music kicks back in]*

**Amanda:** C’mon Timmy, Prehistoric Creature Dome doesn’t sound very catchy, does it? They’re dino-adjacent! Shouldn’t they get a chance to strut their stuff?

**Tim:** That’s true… And anything *does* go in the Dino Dome…

**Amanda:** That’s the spirit!

**Tim:** Well, let’s just hope there’s some kind of water involved, or this’ll be over pretty quickly!

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

*The dome rumbles and we hear mechanical movement and water rushing in]*

**Tim:** Phew! The dome is filling up with h20!

**Amanda:** Oooh, I feel like we’re in an aquarium…

*[Large wave passes]*

**Tim:** It’s the Pacific Ocean!

*[Light bubbling and underwater movement]*

**Amanda:** Here comes the coral!

**Tim:** Followed by… a cavernous drop… into a deep, dark trench!

*[Ominous echo]*

**Amanda:** And is that… seaweed?

**Tim:** It’s a giant kelp forest!

**Amanda:** And an underwater volcano! It’s erupting near the finish line!

*[Churning bubbling eruption]*

**Tim:** Rollicking raptors!

**Amanda**: This is an underwater obstacle course! First our racers will have to swim over a shallow coral reef, then follow a deep dark trench to a kelp forest and finally around the deep-sea volcano to the finish line on the other side.

*[Mosasaurus and megalodon growl]*

**Tim:** And it looks like our swimmers are raring to go

**Tim:** Dinos….

**Amanda:** Don’t we mean – sea monsters??

**Tim:** Oh yeah…

**Amanda, Tim & Megaphone voice:** Sea monsters go!

*[Starter siren sounds followed by a big splash*

*Exciting race music starts]*

**Amanda:** And they’re off… they’re in deep water now but they’re racing to the shallows. There’s nothing in their way for now, which gives us a chance to check out their unique creature features.

Geez, Meg is huge, isn’t she? And quite round…

**Tim:** Don’t be fooled by her shape… Megalodon skeletons are made from cartilage instead of bone…

**Amanda:** That’s the stuff our noses and ears are made of

**Tim:** Yes, and it makes their bodies pretty bendy

**Amanda:** What about Mosie?

**Tim:** She’s as long as Meg, but sleeker, with four paddle-like flippers and a strong tail…

**Amanda:** Does she use the paddles for swimming?

**Tim**: No, she swims much the same as Meg. Mosie’s flippers help her make tight turns though

**Amanda:** She’s like a croc with whale flippers and a face like a snake!

**Tim:** Wait ‘til you see it open – her jaw is just like a snake! So, it can open super-duper wide.

But the main difference between Meg and Mosie is the way they breathe…

Meg has gills to breathe underwater, but Mosie has nostrils – that means she holds her breath and -

**Amanda:** Gah! Sorry to cut you off, Tim…

*[Music cuts out]*

… but Mosie and Meg have reached the shallow waters and are entering the coral reef…

*[Huge splash as music restarts. Seagulls call overhead]*

Meg’s ploughing across the top like an army tank!

**Tim:** Not even the spikiest urchin could penetrate her armour…

**Amanda:** Mosie’s literally scraping through…

**Tim:** Her skin is scaly and smooth – like a python

**Amanda:** Ouch! The coral is scraping against her belly and it’s slowing her down, Tim!

*[Rough scraping against coral]*

Meg is out in front, heading straight for the trench…

*[Song ends as Mosasaurus growls]*

**Tim:** Don’t worry Mosie! We’ll have some water-proof band-aids at the finish line for you!

**Amanda:** Kaboom! Meg has dropped into some seriously deep water… it’s dark down there… looks chilly too…

*[Intense music starts]*

**Tim:** But megalodon can cope… she’s not cold-blooded like most fish…

Meg’s muscles generate heat that keeps her warm in cold water

**Amanda:** She’s getting deeper and deeper…

*[Mosasaurus calls]*

Mosie has entered the trench too! She’s following close behind Meg but she’s swimming close to the surface

**Tim:** She can’t go too deep, she’ll need to pop up for some air soon…

*[Deep thud and Megalodon growls. Crowd gasps]*

**Amanda:** Did Meg hit something?

**Tim:** I think she’s stuck!

**Amanda:** Yes, the trench is narrower at the bottom, and it looks like Meg has wedged herself between two rock walls.

She needs to back out of there

**Tim:** No! Sharks can’t swim backwards! Its gills would fill with water, and it wouldn’t survive.

**Amanda:** Yikes! Ok Meg! Do not reverse!

**Tim:** Mosie’s got her head out of the water for some fresh air

*[Mosasaurus exhales at surface]*

… and she’s floated right over the top of the stuck shark! I don’t think she knows what’s happening right under her nose

**Amanda:** C’mon Meg – swing that tail!

**Tim:** Yes, Meg’s tail is shaped like a big C and it’s a powerful propeller

**Amanda**: Looks like it’s creating some momentum! Look at that body wriggle!

**Tim:** This is where her bendy skeleton comes in handy too… she’s twisting… she’s thrusting…

*[Cork pop and crowd cheers]*

**Amanda:** She’s out! Phew!

Mosasaurus is a good five body-lengths ahead of Megalodon and swimming strong…

**Tim:** I think she’ll do well in the kelp forest too… she’ll use her paddles to help steer and swerve through that wavy weed…

**Amanda:** And then it’s just a short swim to the mud volcano

**Tim:** Jeez, this kelp forest is thick!

**Amanda:** It’s curling around Mosie’s tail

**Tim:** It looks like it has… suckers?

*[Exciting music starts]*

**Amanda:** That’s a tentacle!

**Tim:** It’s wrapping around Mosasaurus!

**Amanda:** It’s a…. kraken!

**Tim:** Kraken? They don’t exist! That is a giant squid!

**Amanda**: Mosie’s got that double hinged jaw wide open but then tentacles have got her good. They’re in a squid-lock!

The mighty Megalodon has appeared out of nowhere!

*[Bite sound]*

And chomped right through that squid tentacle! Yikes, is the squid okay?

**Tim:** Oh yeah, it’ll grow back that tentacle in no time…

**Amanda:** And it looks like one of the teeth got stuck in a sucker!

**Tim:** A souvenir for squiddy!

A shark like the Meg can shed and replace thousands of teeth in its lifetime… not like us humans who have to brush, and floss every day

**Amanda:** The squid has released Mosie and slunk off into the kelp forest. Better luck next time, pal!

Looks like Mosie is outta there!

**Tim:** All thanks to Meg!

**Amanda:** And she’s hot on her tail. They’ve both made it through the kelp with Meg maintaining a slight lead. Mosie is coming up for another breath…

*[Big gasp of air before a huge explosion]*

**Amanda:** Phwoar! The volcano is erupting! But its not lava, it’s spewing mud all over the place!

It’s causing some serious visibility issues – Meg is swimming in circles! She’s totally lost her lead.

I don’t think she can see, Tim!

**Tim:** And here comes Mosie from the surface… she’s slowed right down…

**Amanda:** She doesn’t know which way to go either… and the finish line is so close!

**Tim:** Oh – look! Mosie’s poking out her tongue!

**Amanda:** Hey, hey, I know you’re in the lead Mosie, but there’s no need to rub it in to poor old Meg…

**Tim:** No, no – it’s her forked tongue… like a snake remember? She’s using it detect a scent… to help find her way out of that mud!

*[Crowd cheers louder]*

**Tim**: The crowd is erupting here in the Dome!

**Amanda:** Looks like Mosie is the crowd favourite tonight, but Meg is back on track… she’s torpedoing through that muddy gunk with surety… Wonder what she knows that Mosie doesn’t?

*[Electrical spark sound as a high-energy rock song begins]*

**Tim:** It’s the ampullae of lorenzini!

**Amanda:** Ampu, what now?

**Tim:** Ampullae of lorenzini! Tiny cells in the skin of a shark’s nose, they can feel electrical currents…

**Amanda:** So…?

**Tim:** They help sharks sense prey! The crowd is electric tonight and Meg can literally feel it! The more they cheer for Mosie, the easier she can find her way out of the mud

**Amanda:** This could go either way! Mosie is still flicking her tongue round, she’s following Meg’s scent and she’s right on her tail but –

*The finishing siren sounds and the crowd cheers*

**Megaphone voice:** Winner!

it’s too late! Meg has made it across the finish line first!

And here comes Mosie… a very close second

*[Crowd cheers, some boos]*

**Tim:** The crowd has some mixed feelings tonight

**Amanda:** Well, they played a big part in Meg’s victory. I’m gonna put on my scuba suit, while you run the Domers through an action replay!

**Tim:** Mosie had a stingy start through that coral reef… but soon caught up when Meg got wedged between some rock walls in the trench… a giant squid caught Mosie in the kelp forest, until Meg chomped right through its tentacle - which will totally grow back, by the way… The last leg became a battle of the senses as both our marine monsters struggled to find their way out of muddy waters surrounding the volcano… But it was Meg’s ampullae of lorenzini that won the race when she followed the cheers to victory

Over to you Amanda…

**Amanda:** Yes, it’s time to present the trophy to the megalodon – I’m, of course, in a cage and passing it over as we….

*[Wet squishy tentacle grabs trophy]*

**Amanda:** It’s the kraken! It’s swiped the trophy…

**Tim:** That’s a new one…

**Amanda:** Join us next time for the greatest race of all time, where anything goes… 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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