



# Berkshiremuseum

## Gallery of Dinosaurs and Paleontology

### *Pre & Post Visit Resources*

#### Important Terms and Concepts

##### *Pre & Post Visit*

#### Terms: PreK - K

<u>Dinosaur</u>	a group of land-dwelling reptiles who lived on earth and became extinct (are no longer alive) long before human beings existed.
<u>Fossil</u>	remains or traces of something that was once alive, preserved by minerals (the building blocks of rocks).

#### Terms: Grades 1 - 2

<u>Carnivore</u>	an animal that eats other animals, or meat.
<u>Herbivore</u>	a plant-eating animal.
<u>Paleontologist</u>	a scientist who studies prehistoric life through the examination of fossilized remains.
<u>Reptile</u>	a group of air-breathing animals that relying on sources outside of their bodies, such as the sun, for heating and cooling their bodies, most of whom lay eggs and have skin covered with scales or bony plates.
<u>Mammal</u>	a group of animals that nourish their young with milk produced by mammary glands, have hair, and regulating internal body temperature through internal means such as burning food for energy, shivering, sweating, etc.
<u>Extinct</u>	no longer existing.

Replica a copy or close reproduction of something.

Classify to arrange into groups based on shared characteristics.

### **Activities to Do at School or at Home** ***Pre & Post Visit***

#### **Activities: PreK - Kindergarten**

##### Chocolate Chip Cookie Excavation

Give each student a chocolate chip cookie, and encourage them to use skewers, toothpicks, and plastic spoons to "excavate" the chips from their cookie before eating it.

##### Dino Puppets

Students can make their own dinosaur puppets out of paper bags. Put one arm inside the bag and use your hand to open and close your dinosaur's mouth. The bottom of the bag becomes the dinosaur's face. Use markers, colored paper, and googly eyes to decorate your bag. Don't forget important dinosaur features like horns (snow cone cups make great ready-made horns), plates, and teeth. Discuss with students what kind of teeth a meat-eater would have (sharp and slightly curved) and what kind of teeth a plant-eater would have (long, skinny, pencil-like teeth in the front and/or short, flat teeth [like our molars] on the sides).

##### Ten Little Dinosaurs

Read *Ten Little Dinosaurs* by Pattie Schnetzler aloud to the class. Then practice counting with this chant to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

One little, two little, three little dinosaurs,  
Four little, five little, six little dinosaurs,  
Seven little, eight little, nine little dinosaurs,  
Ten little dinosaur babies.

##### Assessment: Create a Dinosaur Word Chart

Before your visit to the Museum, ask the whole class to brainstorm what comes to mind when they think about dinosaurs. Write down and draw key words and ideas. Also encourage students to think about what questions they might like to ask while they are at the Museum. Repeat the exercise after your visit to see what has changed.

## **Activities: Grades 1 - 2**

### **Make Your Own "Fossil" Imprint**

Discuss the difference between a fossil remain (when part or all of a living thing becomes a fossil) and an imprint (an impression left behind by a living thing that becomes a fossil, like a foot print). To help students understand the concept of an imprint, give each student a small ball of play dough or clay. Hand out an object to each student to press into the dough (or clay) to create an impression. Shells, chicken bones, plastic fish, plastic insects, or even plastic all work well. Then set the impressions aside to dry.

### **Dino Dioramas**

Ask students to pick one particular dinosaur to focus on. Encourage them to research what their dinosaur was like, including what it ate, where it lived, and what other plants and animals it might have encountered. Students can then create a small sculpture of their dinosaur out of clay. Shoeboxes make an excellent dinosaur habitat (ask a local shoe store to save boxes for you). Students can design a prehistoric habitat for their dinosaur inside their box using colored paper, pipe cleaners, colored clay, paint and markers.

### **Assessment: Make a K-W-L Goal Sheet**

As a class, make a K-W-L chart. Include these three columns or sections...What I **K**now about Dinosaurs...What I **W**ant to Learn about Dinosaurs...What I **L**earned about Dinosaurs. Pre-visit, have the students brainstorm ideas for the first two columns of the chart. Post-visit, ask the students to share what they have learned and fill in the third column.

## **Suggested Print and Web Resources**

### ***Pre & Post Visit***

### **Resources: PreK - K**

#### **Print and Web Materials for PreK - K Students**

##### **Enchanted Learning**

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com>

*This is a fun, educational site for audiences as young as preschool. Visitors will find user-friendly sites about dinosaurs and fossils along with craft projects and printable coloring pages. Rated A+ by Education-World.com.*

Schnetzler, Pattie. Ten Little Dinosaurs. Denver: Accord Publishing Ltd., 1996. *The silly escapades of ten different dinosaurs are described in rhyming verses. This book has a pair of large googly eyes that add humor to every page.*

Yolen, Jane. How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? New York: The Blue Sky Press, 2000. *Dinosaurs bring humor to familiar good-night antics known by every child.*

#### Zoom Dinosaurs

<http://www.zoomdinosaurs.com>

*This is an on-line hypertext book about dinosaurs. It is designed for students of all ages and levels of comprehension with information on dinosaurs, extinction, fossils and more.*

### **Print and Web Materials for PreK - K Educators**

Courtenay-Thompson, Fiona and Mary Lindsay (Ed.) The Visual Dictionary of Dinosaurs (Eyewitness Visual Dictionaries). New York: Dorling Kindersly Publishing, Inc., 1993. *A good basic introduction to the dinosaur species and and classification, including plenty of images.*

Dixon, Dougal et al. The Macmillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Creatures. NY: Macmillan, 1988. *This book contains a huge number of fantastic color illustrations. It depicts and describes many species of dinosaurs and lesser-known species of prehistoric reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and mammals.*

#### Fossil Resource

<http://www.twoguysfossils.com>

*Two Guys Fossils is a supplier of real fossils, replicas, posters, and dinosaur models, with many items available at reasonable prices. Fossils come with information about the species and the location where the specimen was found.*

#### NASA Classroom of the Future

<http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/dinosaur.html>

*This site offers online references, links, activities, crafts, and lesson plans.*

### **Resources: Grades 1 - 2**

#### **Print and Web Materials for Grade 1 - 2 Students**

Aliki (Aliki Brandenburg). Digging Up Dinosaurs. NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1988. *A charming, cartoon-illustrated book that leads the reader through all the steps of paleontology, from locating and excavating fossils, to cleaning and studying them, to the final assembly of a skeleton in a Museum.*

Nature of New England

<http://www.nenature.com/DinosaurPictures.htm>

*Illustrations of dinosaurs discovered in North America.*

Wahl, Jan and Bob Doucet. The Field Mouse and the Dinosaur Named Sue.

Cartwheel Books, 2000. *This engaging story about a displaced field mouse walks readers through the process of assembling the skeleton of the now-famous T. rex named Sue at the Chicago Field Museum.*

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Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's Department of Paleobiology: Dinosaur Exhibits

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/dino/index.html>

*This site provides information about specific species of dinosaurs and includes images of fossils that are in the Museum's collection. Other features include a Top 10 list debunking common misconceptions, an article on field work, information about prehistoric life forms other than dinosaurs, and a step-by-step look at how dinosaur skeletons are reconstructed for Museum display.*

University of California Museum of Paleontology

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/index.html>

*If you are looking for specific information, using their search function is very helpful, as this site has many different kinds of resources to offer, including online exhibits, a site called Dinobuzz covering exciting new research and controversial topics, and modules for educators on topics like Understanding Evolution, Explorations Through Time, and Learning from the Fossil Record.*