

Berkshiremuseum

Gallery of Dinosaurs and Paleontology

While You Are in the Gallery

Activities: Pre K - K

Compare and Contrast

The dinosaur gallery's walls are painted with life size dinosaurs. After observing the walls, have students make statements comparing themselves to different dinosaurs, or comparing and contrasting two dinosaurs. For example, "The Apatosaurus is bigger than me, " or "The Velociraptor is smaller than the Triceratops."

Dino Hunt!

Have students, working with partners, go on a scavenger hunt. A Dino Hunt page with items to search for is included at the end of this document. You can give each student a copy of the page and ask them to circle each item as they find it in the gallery, or you can give each pair of students one item to search for at a time: simply cut the page into strips, so that each item can be given out individually.

Activities: Grades 1 - 2

Excavate!

Visit the Dinosaur Dig, a simulated excavation site where students can uncover replicas of dinosaur skeletons. As students are digging, challenge them to think about what kind of bones they are finding. What part of the dinosaur's body have they found? Which kind of dinosaur might they have found: a long-neck, a meat-eater, a duck bill, a triceratops, etc.? Diagrams adjacent to each section of the Dig provide a key identifying the type of bones to be found and the dinosaur they represent.

Things you don't want to miss
During your visit



Apatosaurus Femur

This is a life-size replica of a leg bone that helped carry one of the largest land animals ever to walk the earth. Weighing up to 25 tons, this plant-eating, long-necked dinosaur lived 150 million years ago in the western United States and reached a length of 69 feet!



Stegosaurus Plate

This replica allows visitors to feel all of the bumps and grooves on a Stegosaurus' plate. The plate belonged to a 30 foot, 2 ton animal that lived about 150 million years ago. There is some debate about the primary function of Stegosaurus' plates, but they were most likely an early form of climate control, allowing the large plant eater to regulate temperature. Undoubtedly they also provided some defense and may have attracted potential mates.



Dinosaur Dig

With goggles in place and brush in hand, children are transformed into junior paleontologists, as they excavate replicas of dinosaur skeletons at this simulated excavation site. Nearby signs help visitors identify the bones they uncover.



Dino Den

A cozy spot to play with dinosaur puppets and figures, read picture books, and piece together puzzles.

Discussion questions
During your visit

Which dinosaur is your favorite? Why?

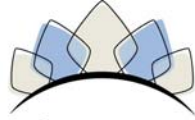
How do we know what we know about dinosaurs?

How are fossils formed?

What's the difference between a fossil and a rock?

Were people and dinosaurs living at the same time?

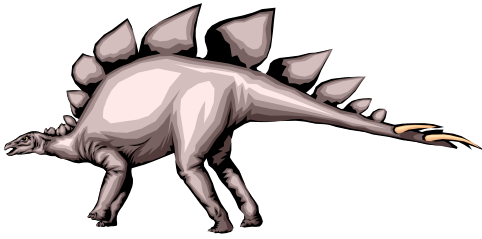
How can you tell a dinosaur from other prehistoric animals?



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Dino Hunt

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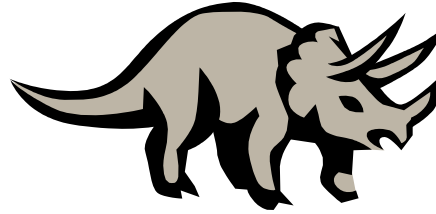
Stegosaurus



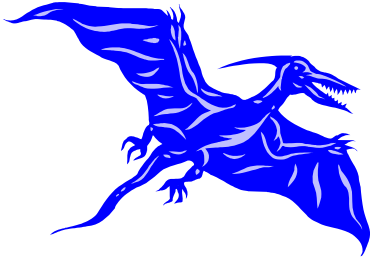
Velociraptor



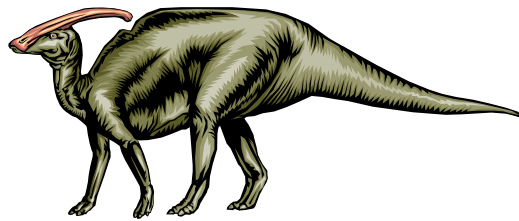
Dinosaur skull



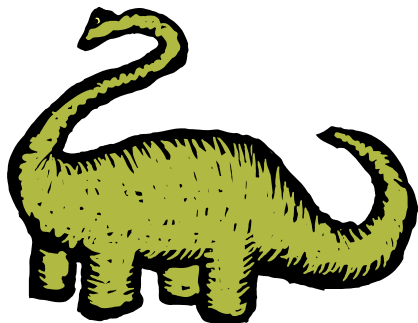
Triceratops



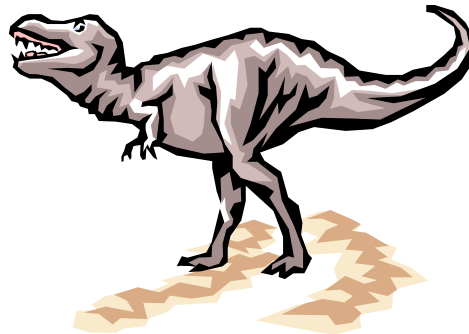
Flying reptile (look up!)



Parasaurolophus



Long-necked dinosaur
Apatosaurus or Camarasaurus



Albertosaurus