



DINOSAURS

Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked, dinosaur-themed lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for primary and middle years students.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about different types of dinosaurs.
- Students will learn about some of the dinosaurs that are unique to Australia.
- Students will discover areas in Australia where fossils have been found.

English

- Students to research to find out what types of dinosaurs have been discovered in Australia. Choose one and write an information report about it.
- Students to write a poem about their favourite dinosaur. Students to share their poem with the class, describing why they like that particular dinosaur.
- Students to create and contribute to a dinosaur word wall. Add new or unfamiliar words and their definition.
- Students to use the internet and the information in the Facts for Students section (in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website) to complete the '**Dinosaur Definitions**' activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to find ways of displaying and describing 'a million'. Explain to students that it is believed that dinosaurs lived on the earth over 65 million years ago.
- Students to create a list of the heights and/or weights of some well known dinosaurs and match them to things that exist today such as cars, whales etc.
- Students to ask classmates/family/friends to name all the dinosaurs they can think of. Record the responses then create a graph to discover the most well known dinosaurs.



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Science

- Students to investigate the process of fossilisation. What conditions must be present for a fossil to form over time?
- Students to make their own fossil using plasticine, Plaster of Paris and something to create a fossil shape. When the fossils are finished hide them in a sandpit and work with a younger class to hold an imaginary fossil dig. (Instructions for making fossils can be found with a quick internet search.)
- Students to make a diorama of a particular period in which the dinosaurs lived. Include clay or papier mâché models of dinosaurs.
- Students to discuss what a food chain is. Research to discover how the food chain might have worked during a time period in which dinosaurs lived. What could happen to the dinosaurs if one part of the food chain was disrupted? Students then select a modern day animal and complete the **'What's for Lunch?'** activity sheet.

Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to research and then create a timeline indicating, and naming, the time periods from the Triassic period to today.

Geography

- Students to create their own imaginary time period. Name the period and describe:
 - The climate
 - The landscape/geography
 - The types of animals and/or humans that live during this period.

The Arts

- In small groups, students to experiment with how various dinosaurs may have moved. Each group to present a 'dinosaur routine' to music of their choice.
- Students to use various art mediums (papier mâché, collage, sculpture etc.) to make a model of their favourite dinosaur.



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Technologies

- Students to research movies which include dinosaurs or prehistoric creatures. Discuss which technologies may have been used to create them for the movies (e.g. animation, computer generation or 3D models). How does this affect the realism of the dinosaurs? Movie examples include: *Jurassic Park*, *Toy Story*, *Godzilla*, *Ice Age*, *The Land Before Time*.
- Students to use basic animation software (or time lapse photography) to create a short digital dinosaur movie.

Health and Physical Education

- Students to investigate the diet and nutrition of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores by completing the '**Dino Diet**' activity sheet.
- Provide students with pictures of various dinosaur skeletons. Discuss:
 - the differences and similarities when compared with the human skeleton
 - the size and shape of different dinosaurs
 - why different dinosaurs may have had their particular size and shape (consider movement, how and what they ate, protection, hunting etc.).

Languages

- Students to research the meanings/translations of some common dinosaur names.