

Dinosaur Discovery



Recommended year group: Year 1

Theme focus: Science

Suggested term: Autumn

Theme introduction:

Dinosaur Discovery is focused on learning about dinosaurs and the different prehistoric eras (Jurassic, Triassic and Cretaceous). Pupils will develop their knowledge about dinosaurs including their diet, habitat and physical appearance. They will sort and name dinosaurs that were herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. They will also learn about palaeontologists and fossil hunters such as Mary Anning who have helped scientists to develop our knowledge of dinosaurs. Pupils will share their expert knowledge by curating and presenting at the 'Dinosaur Museum'.

Driving question:

Did dinosaurs really exist?

Suggested switched on science unit

Year 1 – Polar Places

Suggested switched on computing unit

We are Publishers

Linked reading texts:

Katie and the Dinosaur by James Mayhew

Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow

Tyrannosaurus Drip by Julia Donaldson

The Dinosaur's Egg by M Christina Butler and Val Biro

Writing outcomes:

Letter writing – Letter to the Natural History Museum to share a dinosaur discovery

Non-chronological reports – fact file for the Dinosaur Museum

Curriculum coverage

Science – Animals, including humans; everyday materials

History – Significant individuals; historical enquiry and sources

Design and technology – Design criteria; make materials

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Excite:

Set up evidence of an overnight visit from a mysterious creature to 'appear' in the classroom the next morning. The evidence could include large footprints and other dinosaur artefacts such as teeth, bones, eggs, claws and fossils. Who could have left these clues? Look at all the clues that show us it might have been a dinosaur (e.g. eggs, claws).

Explore:

Explore 1 – What is a dinosaur?
Explore 2 – Dinosaur detectives
Explore 3 – Dinosaur experts
Explore 4 – Fascinating fossils
Explore 5 – Dinosaur skeletons
Explore 6 – Dinosaur diets
Explore 7 – Could Diplodocus have been hunted by T-Rex?

Explore 8 – Dinosaur habitats
Explore 9 – Dinosaur designs
Explore 10 – Dinosaur survival
Explore 11 – Dinosaur eggs
Explore 12 – Dinosaur extinction
Explore 13 – Dinosaur museum

Theme essential vocabulary:

Adaptation, armour, bones, brontosaurus, camouflage, carnivore, classification, Cretaceous, design, diet, dinosaur, egg, evolve, exhibit, exist, expert, extinct, forest, fossil, function, habitat, herbivore, Jurassic, knee, landscape, leg, materials, mass extinction, meteorite, omnivore, palaeontologist, period, prehistoric, presentation, protect, reptile, ribs, sediment, skeleton, skull, spine, survive, teeth, timeline, Triassic, triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex.

Theme essential knowledge/concepts

1. Know a range of dinosaurs with different characteristics from different periods.
2. Classification is sorting of species into groups based on common characteristics.
3. Know the habitats and diets of different dinosaurs.
4. Fossilisation is when remains are covered in layers of rock which harden, preserving a rock replica of the creature inside.
5. A palaeontologist is a scientist specialising in the study of fossilised plants and animals.
6. Understand how palaeontologists find evidence of prehistoric creatures through studying fossils and other techniques.
7. The significance of Mary Anning's work by discovering the first plesiosaur and ichthyosaur fossils.
8. The three periods in which dinosaurs lived: Jurassic, Triassic and Cretaceous.
9. Explain five simple theories about how dinosaurs became extinct.
10. The characteristics of reptiles

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Excel:

Key assessment outcomes:

- sort and classify dinosaurs as carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores; fact cards about dinosaurs and their diets
- dinosaur fact files
- create a dinosaur habitat to meet a design criteria
- illustrations and simple explanations of the theories of dinosaur extinction

Exhibit:

- Create an interactive dinosaur museum for parents/other classes to visit.
- Exhibits could include dinosaur fact files, dinosaur eggs, fossils, pupils' home learning projects, dinosaur paintings, palaeontology.

Possible wider experiences:

1. Visit a local museum or attraction with a dinosaur themed experience (e.g. West Midlands Safari Park Dinosaur World).
2. Invite an animal expert to bring some common reptiles such as snakes or lizards into school.
3. Find out about how they care for the creatures and how they move, eat, and behave.

Flipped learning opportunities:

1. Pupils can research herbivore, carnivore and omnivores.
2. Pupils can classify known animals into mammals, birds, reptiles.

Family learning opportunity:

Create a 3D model dinosaur. Research your favourite dinosaur. Make a 3D model of the dinosaur using materials of your choice. Record some fascinating facts about your chosen dinosaur in your role as a dinosaur expert.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

Jurassic Park Theme – John Williams

Key piece of art

Dinosaur Art – Alain Beneteau

Key poem

'The Dinosaur's Dinner' – June Crebbin
'Maggie and the Dinosaur' – Dave Ward