

# Dinosaurs

## Music

- What kind of music would a dinosaur dance to? Play several kinds of music and let the children decide.
- Listen to "If I Had a Dinosaur" on *Raffi's More Singable Songs*.
- Sing in dinosaur voices—everything from bellowing "roars" to "croaks," "squeaks" and "honks!"
- Sing "Puff the Magic Dragon" by Peter, Paul and Mary.

## Science

- Study the difference between carnivores and herbivores. Which had strong, sharp teeth? Flat teeth?
- Cover the large skeleton fossils with clay to make a dinosaur. Observe how the skeleton supports the body.
- Where are all the dinosaurs now? Discuss the word "extinct." What other animals are extinct?
- Visit a museum of natural history.

## Art

- Make a studentasaurus! Trace the profile of each child's body on butcher paper. Then add a tail, spikes and horn!
- Create prehistoric shadow boxes with grass, sand, mud and more! Bring it to life with mini dinos or stamp cutouts.
- Make your own prehistoric puppets from paper bags. Use markers for detailed faces. Glue sunflower seeds and toothpicks on bags for dinosaur skin texture.

## Active Play

- Walk around the room as though you were a quadruped—on all four legs!
- Tape life-sized Tyrannosaurus feet (about 3 feet long) to the floor. Students try to walk from footprint to footprint. Now, try to hop, leap, run!
- "Fly" around the room (or outside) as though you were a Pterosaur!
- Go on a dino hunt! Find places at your school where a dinosaur could hide!

## Language

- An angry Allosaurus ate an apple. Sally Stegosaurus sang a silly song. Create other dinosaur tongue twisters!
- Write a story for your school newspaper on the discovery of a new dinosaur fossil. Be sure to name your dinosaur!
- Many dinosaurs were much larger than animals we see today. Talk about their sizes, using comparative words such as "big," "bigger," "biggest" and so on.

## Cooking

- Eat like a herbivore! Serve spinach salad with carrots and celery. (Leave the tops on for a real "swampy" look!)
- Tyrannosaurus Teeth Treats! Peel and stick a 6" banana on a craft stick. Dip in melted butterscotch and roll in graham cracker crumbs.
- Make dinosaur toes from a piece of bread! Cut notches across the bottom, toast and spread with peanut butter!

## Math

- Write down the number 4 and put it in a dinosaur egg. Children match the number with dinosaur counters.
- How many bones in a dinosaur? Count the bones on the plastic fossils.
- Practice sequencing using different-sized cutouts of dinosaur feet—children put them in order from small to large.
- Sort the dinosaurs into two groups—whether they walk on 2 legs or all 4.

## Dramatic Play

- Open up a museum of natural history! Display rocks and fossils you make yourself. (See directions on other side.)
- Set up a giant diorama and have the children pretend to be dinosaurs. They can "roar," "swim," "run" or "fly."
- Have an imaginary dinosaur come to your class! Make a giant leash to walk him around the playground; provide food and a place for him to sit or stand.

# Dinosaurs

Travel back in time to a world of prehistoric swamps, forests and oceans, a time when mammoth-sized dinosaurs roamed the Earth—creatures that humans have never seen! Your Dinosaurs Theme Box is full of materials that will assist you in teaching your students about fossils, habitats and prehistoric time periods. We've also included a web full of activities to help you integrate the dinosaur theme across the curriculum.

## Using the Materials

### *Concentration Cards and Book*

- Lay the cards facedown and have the students try to find matching pairs.
- Read the book to the students. Make a list of the dinosaurs mentioned in the book. Sound out the difficult names with the students.

### *Dinosaur Puppets*

- Have the puppets talk to the students about self-esteem. Talk about the differences among the dinosaurs. (Some ate plants, some ate meat; some walked on two legs and others walked on four.) Explain that even though all the dinosaurs were different, they all had many things in common. Invite students to talk about the ways in which they are unique and the ways in which they are alike.
- Pass a puppet around the class. When each student has the puppet, have them share a dinosaur fact with the rest of the class.

### *Jumbo Vinyl Dinosaur Figures and Skeletons*

- Apatosaurus was 70 feet long! How big were the other dinosaurs?
- Have the students match the dinosaurs to their skeletons.

### *Dinosaur Counters*

- Use the counters to create your own prehistoric world. Add tree branches and leaves as background for the world.
- Group the counters by the number of legs the dinosaur used to walk.

### *Stampers and Ink Pad*

- Have the students create a dinosaur scene complete with plants, ponds and volcanos!
- Make fingerprint dinosaurs! Students add horns, tails, plates or wings to their fingerprints.

## Suggested Reading

*Danny & the Dinosaur*  
by Syd Hoff

*Dinosaur Bob & His Adventures with the Family Lizardo*  
by William Joyce

*The Dino Expert*  
by Julie Brillhart

*Dinosaur Time*  
by Peggy Parish

*Dinosaur Valley*  
by Mitsuhiro Kurokawa

*Fossils Tell of Long Ago*  
by Alike

*If the Dinosaurs Came Back*  
by Bernard Most

*My Visit to the Dinosaurs*  
by Alike

*Patrick's Dinosaurs*  
by Carol Carrick

## Fossils, Fossils, Fossils

We've never actually seen a dinosaur—so, how do we know they really existed? The answer is fossils!

When dinosaurs died, their bodies were eventually covered with mud or sand. Over time, the bones slowly turned to stone. These rock-hard remains are called "fossils." Fossils were also created when a plant or animal left an impression in mud. When the mud dried and turned to stone, it preserved the impression as a fossil.

- Create a fossil of your own! Mix equal parts of flour and salt. Gradually stir in cold water until the mixture is similar to modeling clay. Provide each child with a small amount. Students then make hand or footprints—they can even make an imprint of a special belonging. Allow to dry thoroughly (at least three days). Observe hardened "fossils," just like a paleontologist!
- Let's go on a fossil hunt! Take your fossils and bury them in a tub of sand. Have students pretend they are paleontologists, and have them discover the fossils. The students can name the fossils they find and display them in the class fossil museum.

## Devilled Dinosaur Delight

- 1 dozen hard-boiled eggs
- 4 tsp. mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. mustard
- 1 tsp. pickle relish
- bowl for dipping
- 3 cups cold water
- 1 envelope unsweetened drink mix (use bright colors)
- plastic wrap

Combine water and drink mix in a bowl. Tap each egg on a hard surface until cracks form all over the egg. Leaving the shell on, add the eggs to the colored water. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Remove the eggs and peel.

Cut each egg in half, lengthwise. Scoop out the yolks and mix with 4 tsp. mayonnaise, 1 tsp. mustard and 1 tsp. pickle relish. Spoon mixture into egg halves. Makes 24 colorful, safe-to-eat dinosaur eggs!

## Land of the Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs existed in three different time periods: Triassic Period, Jurassic Period and Cretaceous Period. Some walked on four legs, others walked on two. Some were carnivores, others were herbivores.

Have the children create their very own dinosaurs using paint, crayons or markers. Children will need to pick a time period, decide how many legs their dinosaurs walk on and choose whether they are plant or meat eaters. Once everyone is done, encourage the children to introduce their dinosaurs (they can name the dinosaurs after themselves) and tell a story about them.