



Relic Readers

Goal: Motivate children to seek out information and read about dinosaurs, and relics from the distant past through and nonfiction books.

Motivational Activity Kit will include:

- Fossil kits from Natures Treasures
- Assortment of larger plastic dinosaurs
- Dinosaur masks, posters, flashcards, and stamps
- Dinosaur hat, footprint model, and CD
- TX Rocks and Fossils poster
- “Special delivery” package with “real” animal bones/fossils
- Assorted dinosaur books



Description of Activity:

1. As the children enter the library, introduce whoever is wearing the Dinosaur hat as the “Librarianosaurus” and welcome the children to your den.
2. Ask the children to share what they know about dinosaurs. Ask them if they have ever seen a live dinosaur? Discuss that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago and that we only have fossils to help us learn what they looked like and what they ate.
3. When you have an older group, invite them to help define what the word “relic,” means. *You may want to share that something very old and historically important, like a fossil, can be called a relic. They help us in studying the past.* This is also a good opportunity to remind students about the reference section of the library!
4. Using one of the large fossils from the kit, ask the students what they can tell you about the creature it was formed from. Was it a creature that lived on land or sea?

(continued on next page)

Tech Connection: <http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com/index.html>
This site has great ideas, lesson plans and facts about fossils!

Community Connection: Natures Treasures - Generous Donator of Fossil Kits!
4103 N IH 35 Austin, TX 78722 Open 7 Days a Week: Sun-Thurs 10-6 / Fri & Sat 10-8: 512-472-5015
<http://www.naturestreasurestx.com/>

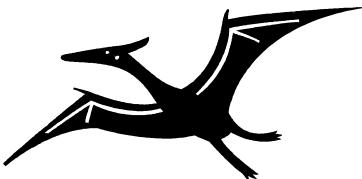
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: K(21 A&B); 1st (27A&B); 2nd (28A&B);
3rd (110.14 29A); 4th (110.6 b1A,C &b3A); 5th (110.7 b1A &b3A &b8A,B,C)
Common Core: ELA-Literacy. RL.K.10, SI.K.1a-K.2, 1.1a-c, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1a-c, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1a-d, 4.3, 4.4, 4.1d, 4.6, RF.4.4a-cSI.4.2, SI.5.3, 5.6, RI5.2, 5.8, 5.10



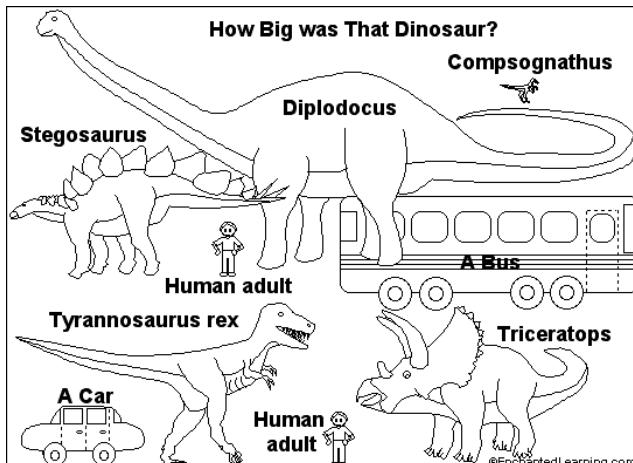
BookSpring is proud to provide Reading Is Fundamental programs in Austin.



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5. As children think about and comment on the fossil.
6. Announce to the class, "We have just received a package that contains a very special delivery! Ask them to guess what is inside and who may have sent you a box like this one (give them clues from the pictures on the outside of the box.) Please use caution when removing the bones from their wrapping.
7. Ask the students questions to allow the students to describe the relic bone or model footprint. For example: "What animal might a bone like this come from?" "What part of the body was this?" "How old do you think this bone is? Why?" Treat them as the mysterious relics from the past that they are, while allowing the students to create the rest of the story through questions and answers.
9. Please allow the class to touch the bone(s.) If you would prefer, you can select a single student to come up to the front and touch or hold the bone and describe it to the rest of the class.
10. Discuss the difference between carnivores (meat eater) and herbivores (plant eater) with the children. Show the children which of the plastic dinosaurs were carnivores and which were herbivores (or have them tell you!) What clues can the dinosaurs body give you about what it ate?
11. Compare and contract the sizes of different dinosaurs compared to objects from today's world. (Full page sheet included on p.5)



Suggested Read-Aloud Books

Grade Level:
Pre-Kinder through First Grade

Suggested Read-Aloud:

How do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?

Como comen los dinosaurios?

Discussion Points:

1. Show the pictures of the different types of dinosaurs from the front and back fly pages of the book. Have the children repeat their names and tell you any facts they know about dinosaurs. You can also use the dinosaur flash cards for this discussion.
2. Use your voice while reading and stop frequently to talk about the dinosaurs manners.
3. Is this story fact or fantasy? How can you tell?
4. What do we know about real dinosaurs that helps us know this is fantasy?

Grade Level:
Second through Third Grade

Suggested Read-Aloud:

Dinosaurs before Dark - Ch. 3 and 4

Dinosaurios al atardecer - Ch. 3 and 4

Discussion Points:

1. Can you picture a pterodon? Do you know what one looks like? What can you tell from Jack's description?
2. Do you remember when the pterodon lived? How did Jack find this information?
3. Annie named the pterodon Henry. Why didn't Jack want her to pet him?
4. What notes did Jack write in his notebook? Why do scientists write notes as they observe new things?
5. Which dinosaur do you think they might see next? Why?

Grade Level:
Fourth through Sixth Grade

Suggested Read Aloud:

Digging for Bird-Dinosaurs p.3-7

Discussion Points:

1. What started Cathy on her path toward becoming a paleontologist?
2. How are some dinosaurs like birds?
3. Where did scientists discover the link between birds and dinosaurs?
4. Are scientists convinced that birds evolved from dinosaurs? Why or why not?

What is a Fossil?

The Short Answer:

A fossil is the remains or evidence of any creature or plant that once lived on the Earth.

The Long Answer:

There are quite a few fossil classification systems in use today, but my favorite is the one used by Peter Larson and Kristin Donnan in their book, *Bones Rock!* They group them into two categories:

Type I-the remains of the dead animal or plant or the imprint left from the remains.

Type I includes: **bones, teeth, skin impressions, hair, the hardened shell of an ancient invertebrate** (an animal without a backbone) like a trilobite or an ammonite, or the **impression of an animal or plant**, even if the actual parts are missing

Type II- Something that was made by the animal while it was living that has hardened into stone. These are called **trace fossils**.

Type II includes:

- **footprints**
- **burrows**



Coprolite—Type 1



Dinosaur footprint—Type 2

Type I fossils can be the **actual thing** that it once was, like a piece of bone or hair or feather. Often the bone material is replaced by different minerals contained in the liquid of the sediments that buried it. What was once bone is now some sort of crystal.

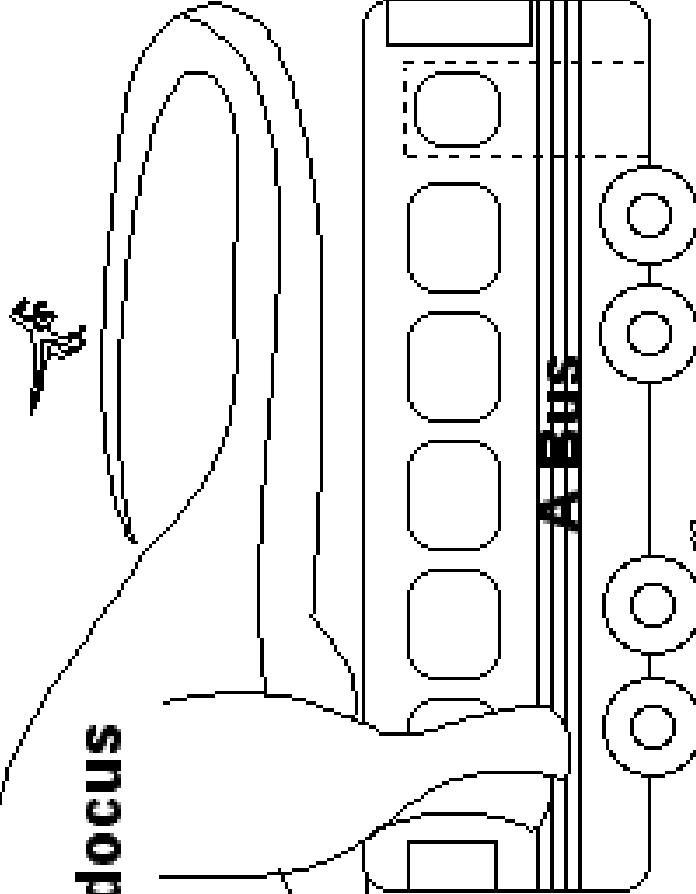
Type I can also be **molds or casts** of the original animal or plant part. If the original organism decays, leaving an imprint and an empty space, it is called an exterior mold or simply a mold. If a space in the structure is filled with minerals and then the original animal or plant part dissolves, it is called a cast.

The question: "What is a fossil?" has a simple answer. But as you can see it can be more complicated than that.

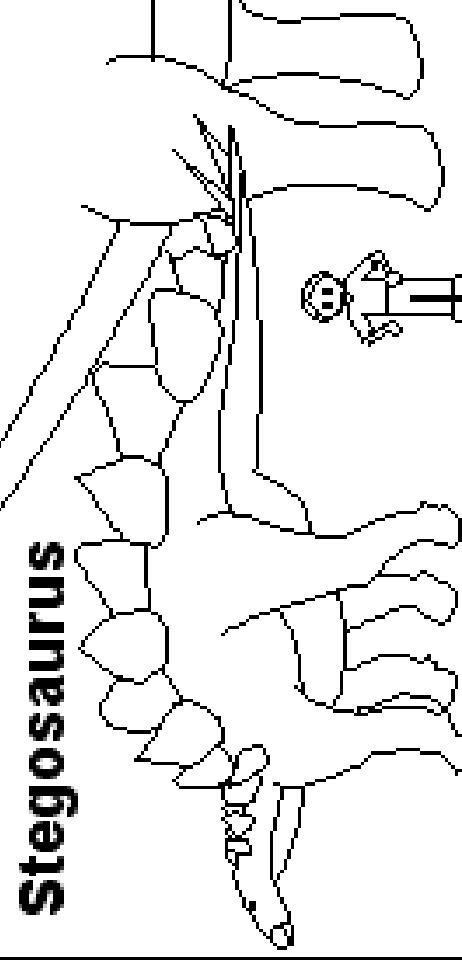
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How Big was That Dinosaur?

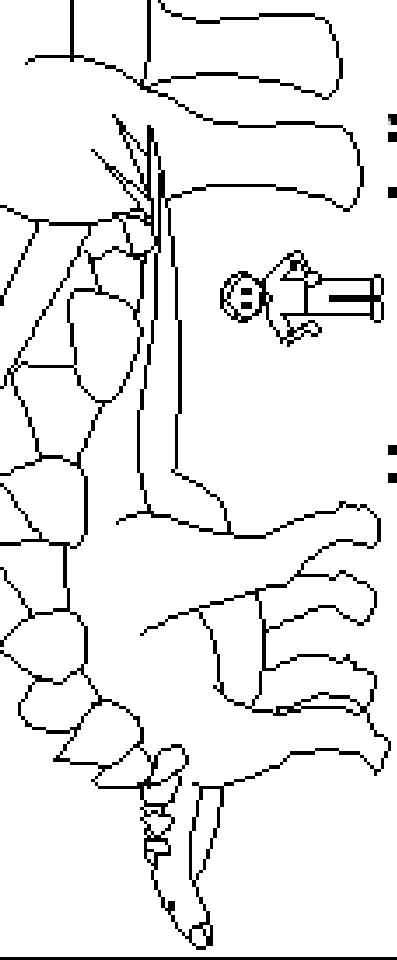
Compsognathus



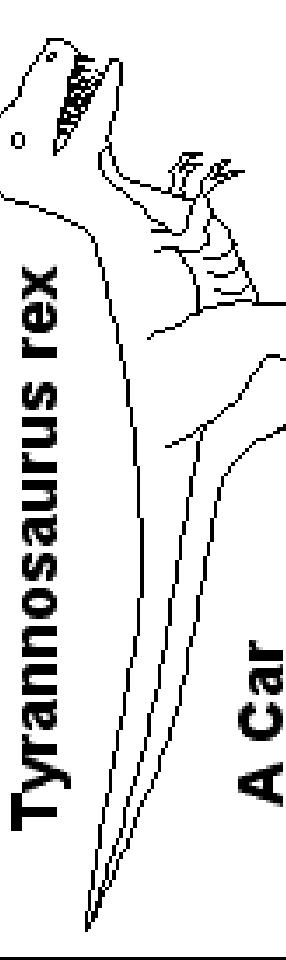
Diplodocus



Stegosaurus



Human adult

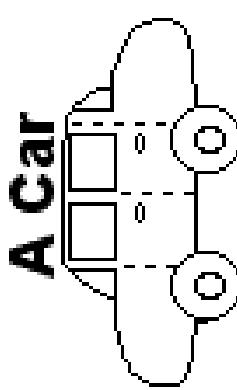


Tyrannosaurus rex

Triceratops



Human adult



A Car