

TEACHER'S GUIDE

DISCOVERING DINOSAURS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

During this tour of our world-renowned *Dinosaur Hall*, young participants will learn about the different dinosaurs that lived in ancient Alberta. Each stop explores a curriculum concept like carnivores and herbivores, predators and prey, or plants and the ancient environment. After the tour there will be lots of time for questions with our dinosaur experts!

AUDIENCE Kindergarten – Grade 3 * (maximum 35 students)

ALBERTA CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Kindergarten Environmental and Community Awareness

Grade 1 Science Needs of Animals and Plants

Grade 2 Science Small Crawling and Flying Animals

Grade 3 Science Animal Life Cycles

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

1. Recognize a variety of dinosaurs and learn about the characteristics that make them unique
2. Learn about the environment that dinosaurs inhabited
3. Explore the different concepts related to dinosaurs, such as:
 - Carnivores and Herbivores
 - Predators and Prey; Attack and Defence
 - Eggs, Babies, and Parental Care
 - Herds and Packs
 - Ancient Environment

PRE-PROGRAM Have the students sit in rows and in view of the camera.

PROGRAM FORMAT

1. Introduction to palaeontology and fossilization
2. Enter the Mesozoic!
 - *Camarasaurus*: Characteristics of dinosaurs
 - *Stegosaurus*: What did it eat? Herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores
 - *Albertosaurus* and *Euoplocephalus*: Attack and Defence
 - *Lambeosaurus*: Eggs and Babies; Herding
 - *Dromaeosaurus*: Pack Hunting and Communication
 - *Triceratops*: Ancient Habitats and Environments
 - *Tyrannosaurus rex*: Dinosaur Names
3. Extinction: How did the large dinosaurs go extinct?
4. Questions and Conclusion

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KEY TERMS

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| Ancient | Existence of many years; referring to a remote period; to a time in early history (really old). |
| Carnivore | An animal that feeds exclusively on meat. |
| Dinosaur | Reptiles that lived 230-66 million years ago and lived mainly on land. Ranged from the size of a chicken to the largest animal ever known to walk on Earth. |
| Environment | What is around an animal or plant; where it lives. |
| Extinct | Groups of animals or plants that are no longer living; died out. |
| Fossil | The remains, traces, or imprints of a prehistoric organism preserved in rock. |
| Habitat | The part of the physical environment in which an animal or plant lives (its home). |
| Herbivore | An animal that feeds exclusively on plant material. |
| Mesozoic | Era of geological time between the Palaeozoic and the Cenozoic eras; made up of three periods – Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. Also known as the Age of Reptiles or the Age of Dinosaurs. |
| Omnivore | An animal that feeds both on meat and plants. |
| Palaeontology | The study of ancient life on Earth based on the fossil record. |

FEATURED DINOSAURS (in order of appearance)

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|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Camarasaurus</i> | (cam-air-ah-SORE-us) “chambered reptile”, from the hollow chambers in its vertebrae. |
| <i>Stegosaurus</i> | (STEG-oh-SORE-us) “roofed reptile” from the plates on its back resembling roofing tiles. |
| <i>Albertosaurus</i> | (AL-burr-toe-SORE-us) “Alberta reptile”, discovered in Alberta in 1884. |
| <i>Euoplocephalus</i> | (YOu-oh-ploh-SEFF-ah-lus) “well-armed head”, from its tough armour. |
| <i>Lambeosaurus</i> | (LAM-bee-oh-SORE-us) “Lambe’s reptile”, referring to palaeontologist Lawrence Lambe. |
| <i>Dromaeosaurus</i> | (droh-MAY-ee-oh-SORE-us) “running reptile”, from its speedy appearance. |
| <i>Triceratops</i> | (try-SAIR-ah-tops) “three horn face”, from the three horns on its face. |
| <i>Tyrannosaurus rex</i> | (TY-ran-oh-SORE-us) “tyrant reptile king”, from its large size compared to other meat-eating dinosaurs. |