

DINOSAUR PICNIC

Teacher Resource Guide

Program Overview

TOPIC: Dinosaur diets and feeding patterns.

THEME: There are differences between the ways groups of dinosaurs act and interact in their environments, including feeding and movement.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: How would dinosaurs behave at a picnic? As students participate in movement activities, hands-on fossils, an identification game, and 'feeding' the dinosaurs, they learn about herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores, and their adaptations.

AUDIENCE: Kindergarten - Grade 1

Curriculum Connections

Kindergarten **Science:** Using Senses to Explore Properties; Movement of Animals

Grade 1 **Science:** Needs of Animals; Scientific Exploration

Program Objectives

1. Students will distinguish between the needs of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.
2. Students will be able to visually recognize different types of dinosaurs by their adaptations.
3. Students will act out the locomotion patterns and behavioural differences of dinosaurs.
4. Students will examine a variety of fossils, explore their features, and infer what they were for.

Suggested Pre-Visit Activity

1. EAT LIKE A LONG NECK (SAUROPOD)

Learn how a long-necked dinosaur ate. *Diplodocus* and *Apatosaurus* (“*Brontosaurus*”) kept their necks extended horizontally, sweeping vegetation in front of them. *Brachiosaurus* could lift its head up higher to take vegetation near the tops of trees. Move around the room, using your arms as a longneck’s neck and head.

2. EAT LIKE A T. REX

Learn how *Tyrannosaurus rex* ate. How did it use its head and mouth? Did it use its arms? Scientists are still trying to figure out how those little arms were used. Move around the room, experimenting with different ways that *T. rex* might have eaten its food.

3. WHAT TIME IS IT, MR. REX?

Play a version of “What Time is it, Mr. Wolf,” substituting the names. Mr. Rex must move like a tyrannosaur, and can only tag with “short” arms (arms held with elbows tightly in). All the others must move around as a type of prey – either as a four-legged dinosaur, or perhaps as a duck-billed dinosaur (walking on four legs or running on two).

4. DINOSAUR PUZZLE GAME

Teach the children the names of dinosaurs so that they can recognize them on sight. Use cut-up images of dinosaurs to create puzzles. Then, choose a dinosaur, and let the children take turns putting up one piece at a time on the board. Each time a new piece is added, the rest of the group has to guess which dinosaur it is. The game continues until the correct dinosaur is named.

Dinosaur colouring pages are available on the Royal Tyrrell Museum’s website at:

https://tyrrellmuseum.com/whats_on/rtmp_from_home

Post-Program Activity

1. SO, HOW DO THEY KNOW?

Palaeontologists can't observe dinosaurs to see what they ate. They can only look at fossils and compare them with animals alive today. Look at pictures, watch videos, or visit the zoo to see examples of animals alive today. Look at their teeth and feet and see if they have sharp teeth, dull teeth, sharp claws, or blunt toes. Try to guess what they eat, and then see if you can confirm your guesses.

Here are some difficult examples. Spend time discussing each animal's adaptations for its food sources. Are there any others that come up for discussion?

- parrots
- owls
- lizards
- turtles

2. SO, HOW DO THEY KNOW?

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/>

Smithsonian Institution

<http://paleobiology.si.edu/index/html>

Up-to-date scientific reports on dinosaur science

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric_life/dinosaurs/

American Museum of Natural History, New York

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent-exhibitions/fossil-halls>

**Links include videos, sound buttons, virtual tours,
interactive quizzes, databases, and timelines**

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/dinosaurs-and-prehistoric-life/>

Keywords: evolution, dinosaurs, geologic time, palaeobiology,
natural history, palaeontology

3. MUSEUM RESOURCES

Check out the Royal Tyrrell Museum website at <http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com> for a wide variety of teacher resources, including distance learning programs.

Links to websites are provided solely for your convenience.

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