

This set of double-sided wooden dinosaurs has been created to enable children to learn more about the natural world. They will enjoy discussing the similarities and differences between both sides of the animals. There are many intriguing details to take in and discuss. Developing descriptive vocabulary will help children's language and storytelling skills, which are important for imaginative play and the interactions this involves. They will also help to develop children's observation skills as they study and compare both the skin sides of the dinosaurs and their skeletons. The set includes the following dinosaurs: Ankylosaurus, Diplodocus, Iguanodon, Spinosaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus rex and Velociraptor.



Key vocabulary

- Prehistoric
- Dinosaur
- Ankylosaurus, Diplodocus, Iguanodon, Spinosaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus rex and Velociraptor
- Skeleton, bone(s)
- Sort
- Compare
- Similarities
- Differences
- Different from
- Similar to
- Carnivore, herbivore, omnivore
- Ribs, spine, claw, flipper, tooth, teeth, sharp, blunt, curved, flat

Activity ideas

- Sort the wooden dinosaurs by length, height, what they eat
- Create small world play habitats for the children to use the dinosaurs in.
- Make available resources for the children to make their own habitats: bark, dry leaves, stones, log slices
- Design a dinosaur from a painted hand print, with the thumb being the head and the little finger being the tail. Add decoration and features to complete the painting.
- Draw some dinosaur feet on cardboard, cut them out, attach cardboard handles, dip them in a tray of paint and make footprints on a long piece of paper
- Take the opportunity to visit a museum with dinosaur exhibits. Discuss what the children would like to find out before the visit, encouraging them to devise questions that they would like to ask. Revisit these questions afterwards.
- Create your own exhibition space using artefacts, art work, notes and labels. Invite parents/carers to visit. The children can be the dinosaur experts (palaeontologists), sharing their new vocabulary and answering their visitors' questions.
- Give a sheet of paper to one child and ask them to draw the head of a dinosaur, making sure no-one else sees it. This child folds the paper over to obscure the head, while leaving some of its neck visible. The next child draws a dinosaur body from the neck lines, folding the paper to hide it. Finally, the third child draws some dinosaur legs attached to the body lines showing beneath the fold. Unfold the paper completely to view the dinosaur in full. Axel Scheffler's book below is a good source of inspiration.

Extending the learning

- Develop a set of top trump dinosaur cards with a range of information: height, length, weight, speed, ferocity. Deal the cards between the players and ask one child to choose a category and read their entry. If the value beats that of the other players, they claim the related card from each player. If not, the player with the best card wins. Play moves on with the winner of that round choosing the category for the next. Continue in this way until one child wins all the cards, or for a given period of time.
- Compare the dinosaur skeletons to those of other animals. What are the similarities and differences? What might explain them?



Children's books featuring dinosaurs

Book of Dinosaurs by Gabrielle Balkan and Sam Brewster

The Age of Dinosaurs by Steve Brusatte

The Twelve Dinosaurs of Christmas by Evie Day and Liam Darcy

The Girl and the Dinosaur by Hollie Hughes and Sarah Massini

Axel Scheffler's Flip Flop Dinosaurs by Axel Scheffler

A Dinosaur a Day by Miranda Smith, Jenny Wren and Xuan Le

Mary Anning by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara and Popy Matigot

That's Not My Dinosaur by Fiona Watt