

What is a Dinosaur



Program Summary

Grades: PreK - 2

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Program Description:

Who doesn't love dinosaurs? They are enigmatic and monstrous animals that roamed the planet millions of years ago, until they went extinct. Or did they? The main collection at the Dinosaur Discovery Museum aims to help students answer this question. In this program, students will learn about the most up to date classification of dinosaurs and how we separate them from other prehistoric animals, discover the living relatives of dinosaurs, and learn about fossils and how they are formed. Students will walk away with a better understanding of what dinosaurs are and what happened to them, and what paleontologists can learn about life of the past from studying fossils.

This program will take place on Zoom. It is designed to be a collaborative lesson between the students and the museum facilitator. We ask that your students be split into small groups for some of the activities. A week prior to your field trip, you will receive a teacher packet with information, as well as worksheets to make copies of.

Activities:

- Students will learn a movement exercise to help identify dinosaurs.
- Students will sort animals into categories of dinosaur or not-a-dinosaur.
- Students will show how our belongings will help paleontologists in the future.

Program Goals:

- Students will learn about the field of paleontology.
- Students will learn what a dinosaur is.
- Students will work together collaboratively with each other as well as the instructor to solve problems and develop ideas.

Learning Targets:

Students Will:

- Identify basic characteristics that separate dinosaurs from other prehistoric animals and provide justification for identifying animals as dinosaurs or not.
- Understand that, while many dinosaurs went extinct, not all did, and some survive to this day.
- Learn characteristics of theropod dinosaurs.
- Understand what a fossil is and have a basic understanding of how they are formed.

Learning Standards

Wisconsin Science Standards:

- SCI.CC1.K-2 Students recognize that patterns in the natural and human designed world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence.
- SCI.CC4.K-2 Students understand objects and organisms can be described in terms of their parts and that systems in the natural and designed world have parts that work together.
- SCI.LS1.C.K Animals obtain food they need from plants or other animals. Plants need water and light.
- SCI.LS1.D.2 There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water.
- SCI.ESS1.C.2 Some events on Earth occur very quickly; others can occur very slowly.

Next Generation Science Standards:

- K-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
- 2-LS4-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Contact Information

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