

Dinosaurs

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1. When I Grow Up I Want to be a Paleontologist

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**When I grow up, I want to be something very interesting.
The job I'll do will help a lot of people,
and I'll like the work that I do.
Each day will be adventurous, and I'll strive to learn a lot.
Then I'll share what I know and my knowledge will grow.
It's the perfect, perfect job!**

*I just love to learn about dinosaurs! I think I want to become a **paleontologist**. A paleontologist studies the remains of prehistoric life and fossils. I want to go on dinosaur digs and look for the bones of Tyrannosaurus rex. I could do research, study the fossils found from long ago, or help create realistic dinosaurs to be displayed at museums. What a great occupation!*

Now science is important, so I'll study hard when learning about biology.
Experiments in chemistry will help me learn to develop good hypotheses.
Then I'll read and I'll read and I'll read some more, and I'll share just what I learn,
'cause when I grow up I want to be something very interesting.

(Chorus)

**Yes, I'll share what I know and my knowledge will grow.
It's the perfect, perfect job! The perfect, perfect job!**

2. Where Did all the Dinosaurs Go?

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**Where did all the dinosaurs go?
I wish they were still around.
Where did all the dinosaurs go?
The answer can't be found.
And though some theories
do make sense, scientists don't agree
about what caused this mystery.
It's the dinosaur catastrophe.**

Now, some will say the mammals took the eggs right from the nests
so the dinosaurs never hatched because of these strange pests,
while others think a nasty plague caused the dinosaurs to die—
but these seem so unlikely that we still are asking why.

Could the earth have been struck from a comet from outer space,
creating a thick dark dust which blocked the sun from the dinosaur's face?
Did they really get that cold? Did the plants die then? Did they have enough to eat?
Though some think so, the theories, you know, are very incomplete.

(Chorus)

Now, some say the dinosaur's brain stayed small as he began to grow.
Could the dinosaur operate his body or was he too dumb to know?
A plague, perhaps. Yes, this seems right. Did they die because of this?
I think we need to examine the facts and form an hypothesis.

Maybe the plant eaters ate the flowering plants and all the ferns
and then there was no food, which caused the dinosaurs concern.
The plant eaters died and then the meat eaters had no food to eat,
so then the meat eaters died because they liked to eat fresh meat.

(Chorus)

It's the dinosaur catastrophe. It's the dinosaur catastrophe.

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3. I Found a Fossil

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Going on a hike is so much fun.
Collecting rocks—some weigh a ton.
You won't believe the things I found
when I looked closely all around.

Fossils that have been made by shells
or bones or plants—I have to tell
that fossils help us learn and know
about the things from long ago.

When an animal died long ago, the remains were covered by mud or sand and preserved. After many years it changed to rock. When we find a fossil today, it might be the remains of a plant or shell or even an animal.

Now, fossil remains of dinosaurs
let us know a whole lot more
than we ever would without these clues.
Let's go on a fossil rendezvous.

Some fossils are preserved in tar or coal.
You might see parts or even the whole
outline of a leaf or a strange insect
preserved in amber—quite perfect.

We use fossils every day. Fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas burn to make heat and electricity. All of these fossil fuels come from the remains of plants and animals that have been altered over time by heat and pressure.

Yes, fossils help us learn and know
about the things from long ago.
It's like learning a little history.
Most scientists they would agree.

So if you like the great outdoors,
and rocks and streams you do explore,
start hunting for the old remains,
and hardened fossils you'll obtain.

4. It's the Three-horned Dinosaur

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Triceratops means “three-horned face.”

Do you know what it's famous for?

Yes, three sharp horns upon its head.

It's the three-horned dinosaur.

Now, above each eye there was a horn and one right on its nose.
What was the purpose of these horns? Protection, I suppose.
A bony frill was around its head to protect it from attack,
and scaly, thick skin covered this tough dinosaur's back.
Triceratops liked to eat green plants, for it was a herbivore.
It used its parrot-like hard beak—this massive dinosaur.
With hundreds of sharp teeth with which to chew,
Triceratops did eat and eat and eat.
You wouldn't call Triceratops petite.

(Chorus)

On each front foot it had three hooves, plus two more extra toes.
It walked so hard along the ground. This was not twinkletoes!
On each back foot it had four toes, each with a hoof, they say,
and pads just like rhinoceroses have on their feet today.

Triceratops it roamed with friends along the countryside.
The babies stayed close to the herd, or by their mother's side.

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For Tyrannosaurus rex behind the trees he would watch and wait
for one to wander close enough to be his dinner date.

(Chorus)

**It's the three-horned dinosaur.
It's the three-horned dinosaur!**

5. What Colors Were the Dinosaurs?

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I think that dinosaurs were red
with splashes of purple on their heads.
Perhaps their bodies had white spots
or pink and blue small polka-dots.
Imagine Stegosaurus now
with brown spots like a milking cow.
Or Brontosaurus—was she pink
with orange toes? What do you think?

**I guess we'll never really know
for dinosaurs lived long ago,
but brown and green won't do for me.
I think their colors were extreme.**

Tyrannosaurus—he was mean.
Was he brown, or was he green?
Or maybe like the zebra he
had black and white stripes. Could this be?
Triceratops had three huge horns.
Were they brown like prickly thorns?
I think their three horns looked just like
a scary tiger's, big and white.

(Chorus)

Now stop and think about the way
the animals look today.
Some have stripes, some are white.
Each kind is such a special sight.
So when I draw huge dinosaurs,
I choose three colors, maybe four,
and paint them bright. Now, I suppose
that scientists would not oppose.

(Chorus)

6. Tyrannosaurus rex Didn't Get His Supper

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**Tyrannosaurus rex, don't forget, was the meanest thing around.
That big bully would scare all the dinosaurs in town
with teeth as sharp as razors. They all ran far away,
and Tyrannosaurus rex he didn't get his supper for that day.**

"King of the tyrant lizards," the meanest thing around.
As long as two school buses, it stalked across the ground.
Its teeth were sharp and jagged—a fearsome, awful sight
with jaws so huge it could have swallowed you in just one bite.
It used its tail for balance as it roamed across the land.
Walking on its back legs, respect it would command.
Its eyes faced forward, helping it to focus on its prey.
With a mighty roar, its nasty temper it would display.

(Chorus)

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It had big feet with four toes, but one was turned around.
In fact, this backwards toe, it didn't even touch the ground.
The front legs were a little shorter, but they had long sharp claws.
To eat they were not needed, for rex used his mighty jaws.

This warrior was a creature that was feared by big and small.
It could grow as long as forty feet and could be eighteen feet tall.
I'm sure it had no friends with which to run and play,
for most dinosaurs they knew they should stay very far away.

(Chorus)

And Tyrannosaurus rex, he didn't get his supper for that day.

7. I'm Not a Dinosaur

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**Pteranodon I am called. I'm not a dinosaur,
but I belong to a family. We are flying pterosaurs.
This special group of flying reptiles really is unique,
for we are winged and toothless and we have long, sharp beaks.**

Pteranodon, Pteranodon, I'm not a dinosaur.
But fly I do with my family. We're flying pterosaurs.
I weigh about thirty pounds. I'm small, but look at me,
for when my wings are all outstretched they're twenty-seven feet.

Did you know that Pteranodon did not have a tail? When it flew in the air, Pteranodon had to pay attention to the movements that it made with its wings and body in order to stay balanced.

Now look real close, and notice on my head there is a crest.
Yes, it will grow to six feet long. It really is the best.
I glide around the waters and I search for lots of fish
and scoop real low and pluck them out. A tasty little dish!

(Chorus)

8. I Am Stegosaurus

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I am Stegosaurus; "roof lizard" is my name,
for on my back are bony plates which have brought me fame.
Scientists are puzzled. What purpose do they serve?
Do they help protect me from intruders I observe?
My legs are quite impressive. Look close and you will see,
for twice as long my back legs stand than my front legs stand on me.
I feed on vegetation, as my mouth looks like a beak.
In the back are rows of tiny teeth which I know are weak.

I am Stegosaurus, with a secret to unveil.
Did you know that four sharp spikes sit upon my tail?
I protect myself, swish my tail at the enemy,
and hope he'll get the message that his supper I will not be.
They say I am not smart because my brain is very small,
and that my brain resembles the size of a golf ball.

But I am Stegosaurus and I'm fine the way I am,
for when I sense grave danger I know it's time to scam.
I like to stay close by my friends, for safe I want to stay,
for hungry Allosaurus lurks behind the trees today.
He waits for me to lag behind so he could soon attack,
but I'm too smart and won't be Allosaurus' next snack.

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I am Stegosaurus; “roof lizard” is my name,
for on my back are bony plates which have brought me fame.
Scientists are puzzled. Should I tell them what they’re for?
No, I think I’ll keep them guessing a little while more.

9. The Brachiosaurus Rap

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Man, this dinosaur weighs a lot, about 85 tons, they say.
And long, oh yes, about 85 feet when measured yesterday.
Some paleontologists found some bones in Africa—a continent—
and learned a lot about this massive beast, a great accomplishment.

Brachiosaurus he stands so tall, about forty-three feet high.
It’s longer than a school bus, taller than giraffes, plus heavy—my, oh my.
Its front legs were longer than its back legs, so scientists proclaim
that “arm lizard” will be this awesome dinosaur’s full name.

It ate green plants—you bet it ate—some tons and tons of food,
for if this herbivore went hungry, could you imagine his bad mood?
They roamed in groups, or families, and watched the little ones
in case a hungry meat eater decided to have one for lunch.

Brachiosaurus had a nose located above his eyes,
and right on the top of his head that nose was used to breathe and sigh.
He may have snorted in a friendly way in order to communicate,
or simply breathe without a pause while Brachiosaurus ate.

Yes, Brachiosaurus was one of the largest dinosaurs to walk on Earth.
Paleontologists continue to study and conduct precise research.
For learning about these massive beasts takes time and patience too,
but well-worth the effort when we learn how big Brachiosaurus grew.

10. Let’s Go On A Dinosaur Dig

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Let’s go on a dinosaur dig. What tools should I bring?
I know I’ll need a camera to take pictures of everything.
A tape measure I will use to check the distances between
the fossils I find on the ground or by a big ravine.

My dad will bring his jackhammer to remove those large, hard rocks
and a geological hammer that will help him with smaller spots.
I will use a little brush to remove some sand and dust.
Once the rock has been removed, this tool is quite a must.

If we find a fragile bone, I know just what to do.
We’ll wrap the bone in foil or maybe some tissue.
Some plaster of paris we will add in order to protect
the bone from breaking while we try to complete this tough project.

A magnifying glass I’ll take and keep right by my side.
I’ll look at teeth or small fossils that I hope we will find.
Now, if we find a huge amount of fossils in the ground,
we might need ropes and pulleys to move them all around.

Let’s go on a dinosaur dig. I know what tools I’ll bring.
Let’s go on a dinosaur dig with supplies and everything.
Let’s go on a dinosaur dig. My tools are now all packed.
A paleontologist I will be. I think I have the knack!

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11. Plesiosaurus, Do You Like To Swim?

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**Plesiosaurus, do you like to swim in the deep, deep sea?
Your long, long neck it comes up to the top for you to breathe.
Your round, round body looks just like a barrel that is full.
As you swim along to find some food, you look just wonderful.**

Plesiosaurus has four flippers to dive down in the deep.
Its toes are webbed, so we just say it has four flipper feet.
The overlapping teeth Plesiosaurus then will use
to trap its meal. Those fish, I'm sure, become very confused.

Plesiosaurus swam in prehistoric oceans. Its name means "near-reptile" because paleontologists thought that it resembled a reptile. Plesiosaurus had a unique barrel-shaped body and a very long neck. Its snake-like neck would twist and turn while it hunted for food.

Plesiosaurus needs to watch out as it swims on by,
for Ichthyosaurus likes to munch. This creature is not shy.
So keep alert and look around as the enemy is near.
For Plesiosaurus, we want you safe as you are very dear.

(Chorus)

12. Good Things Come in Small Packages

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**Good things come in small packages, small packages.
Big is not always better. If you're small you can fit in tight places,
squeeze into very small spaces, especially if you need to hide!**

For instance, if you lived long ago with Allosaurus, like I did, you really would be glad if you were small. Oh, let me introduce myself. I am Compsognathus and I am only about two feet long—about the size of a chicken. I have three toes on my legs and two fingers on my hands. I like to eat meat, especially small lizards. Mm-mmm! And I am glad that I am small!

Compsognathus is my name and I am very small.
My body is covered with feathers, and I'm not very tall.
They say I'm the size of a pigeon or maybe even a chicken.
I run and hide from Allosaurus, for he is not my friend.

(Chorus)

Yes, and sometimes we really needed to hide. Hi, I'm Saltopus. My name means "leaping foot." They say I'm about the same size as a cat, for I only weigh two pounds. I think I'm as fast and clever as a cat, too. And I'm glad that I am small!

Saltopus is my name and I am very small.
I have a long neck and large eyes but I'm not very tall.
I am fast. I need to be. On my hind legs I run.
I like to eat small lizards, for me they can't outrun.

(Chorus)