

Dinosaurs

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Parents and teachers: Please read the fact sheets and directions aloud to encourage children to learn more about prehistoric life. Practice pronouncing the names of the prehistoric animals on pages 11-12 with your child.

When I Grow Up

**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!**



Where Did All The Dinosaurs Go?

**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.

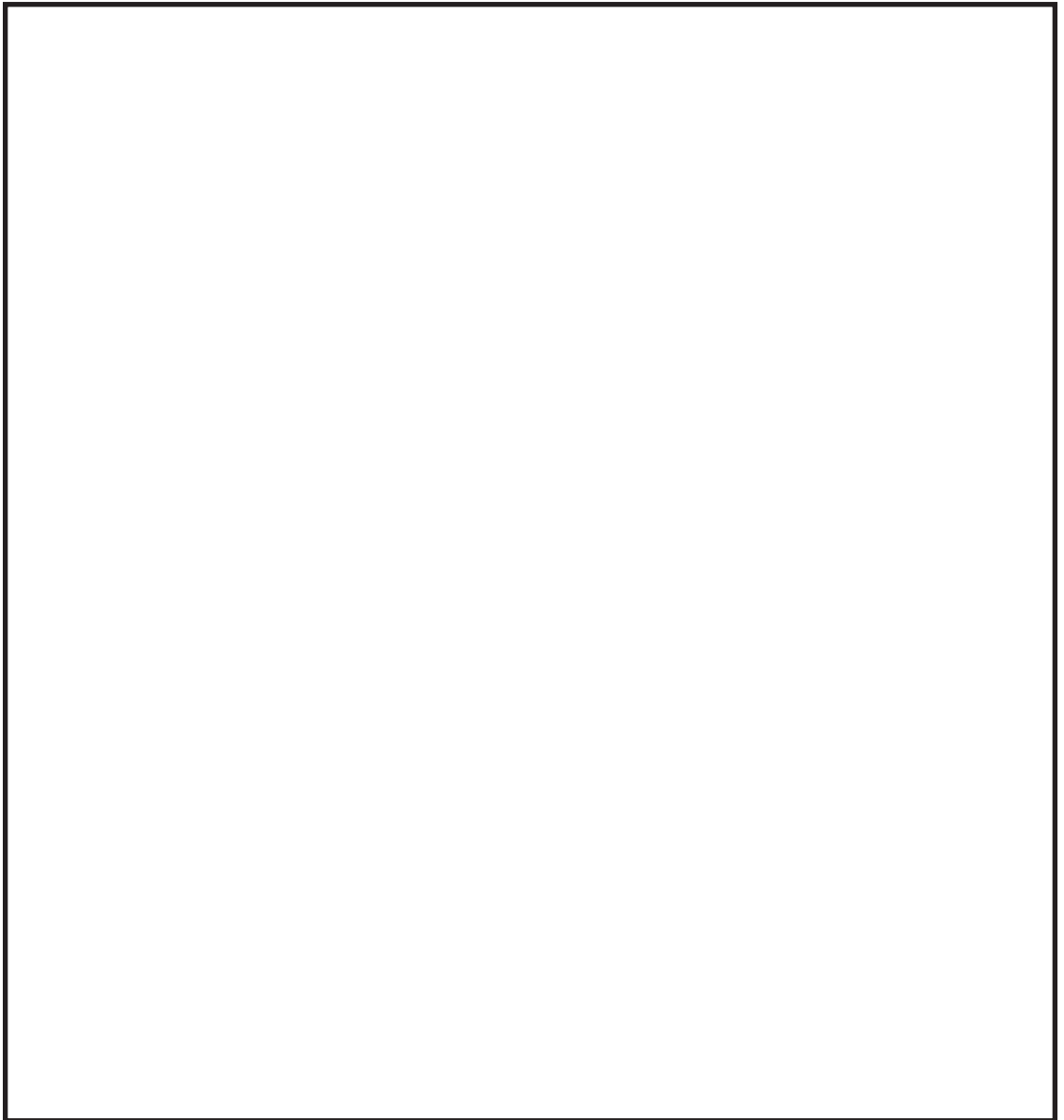
Maybe the plant eaters ate the flowering plants and all the ferns and then there was no food, which caused the dinosaurs concern. The plant eaters died and then the meat eaters had no food to eat, so then the meat eaters died because they liked to eat fresh meat.
(Chorus)

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



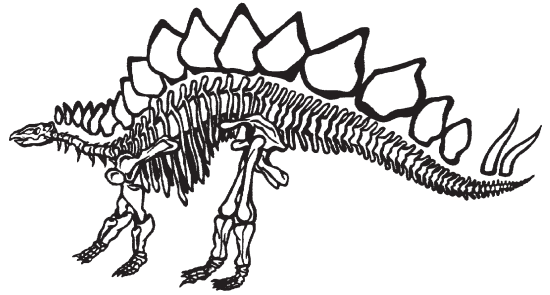
What Do You Think Happened To The Dinosaurs?

Did the Earth become too cold for the dinosaurs? Maybe mammals took all the dinosaur eggs from the nests, or did the dinosaurs get sick and die? There are many ideas, or theories, about why the dinosaurs became extinct. Draw a picture showing why you think the dinosaurs died.



I Found A Fossil

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.



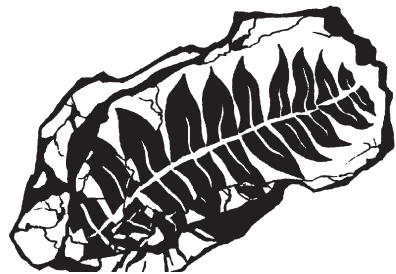
When an animal died long ago, the remains were covered by mud or sand and preserved. After many years it changed to rock. When we find a fossil today, it might be the remains of a plant or shell or even an animal.

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.



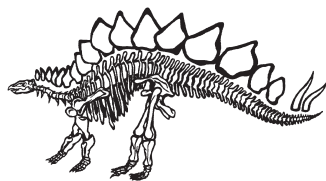
We use fossils every day. Fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas burn to make heat and electricity. All of these fossil fuels come from the remains of plants and animals that have been altered over time by heat and pressure.

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.



Learning About Fossils

- Fossils help scientists learn about animals and plants that lived long ago. **Fossils** are the remains of these animals and plants.
- Fossils were formed when a plant or animal died and was buried under sand or mud. After many years, the sand or mud would turn to rock.
- A fossil can be an imprint of a plant, a mold of a footprint, or even an insect preserved in hardened tree sap called **amber**.
- Some scientists believe that, in order for a fossil to be preserved, the animal had to be buried quickly. Volcanic eruptions or unexpected landslides might have helped fossilize some animals.
- Some animals were preserved in other ways as well. Scientists have found animals that were frozen after falling into ice crevices.
- We use fossils every day. **Fossil fuels**, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, burn to make heat and electricity. Fossil fuels come from the remains of plants and animals from long ago that have been altered by time and pressure.
- Typically, most fossils are found when rock is exposed. This can happen on a mountain or cliff, along a road cut, or on the sides of a stream as it cuts into the **strata**, or layers of rock.



It's The Three-Horned Dinosaur

**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!

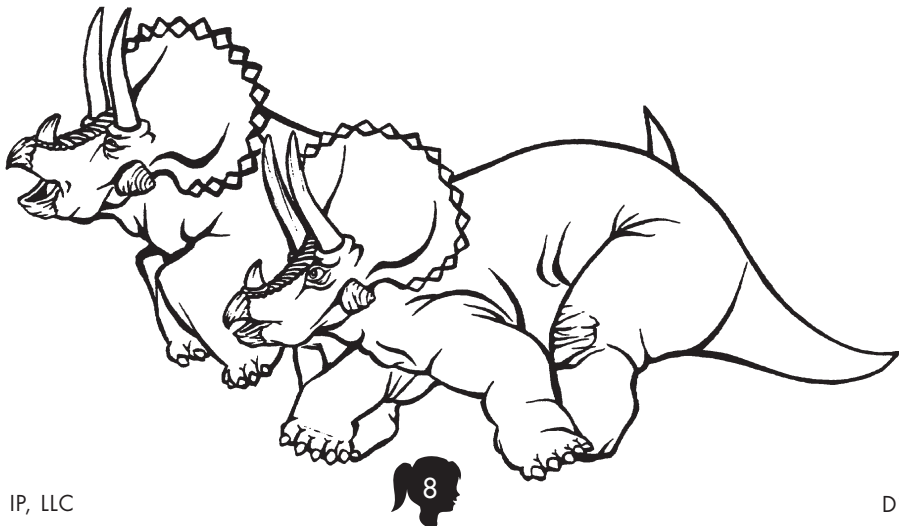
On each back foot it had four toes,
each with a hoof, they say,
and pads just like rhinoceroses
have on their feet today.

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

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!**



What Colors Were The Dinosaurs?

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?

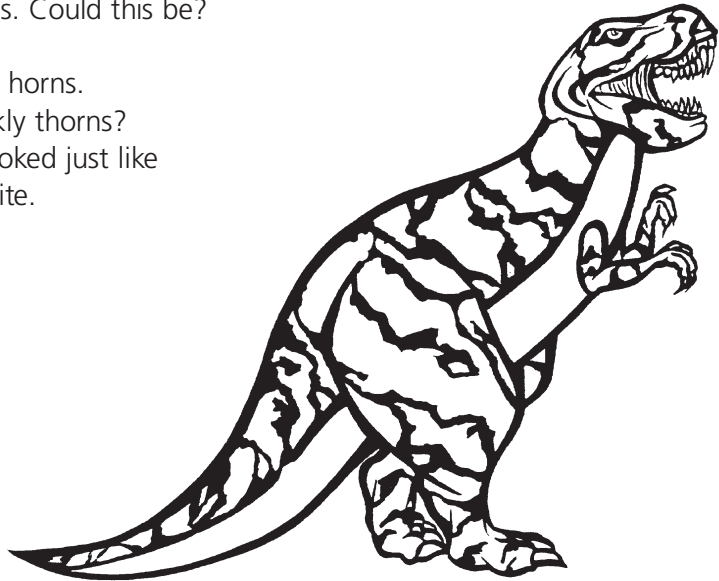
Triceratops had three huge horns.
Were they brown like prickly thorns?
I think their three horns looked just like
a scary tiger's, big and white.

(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.

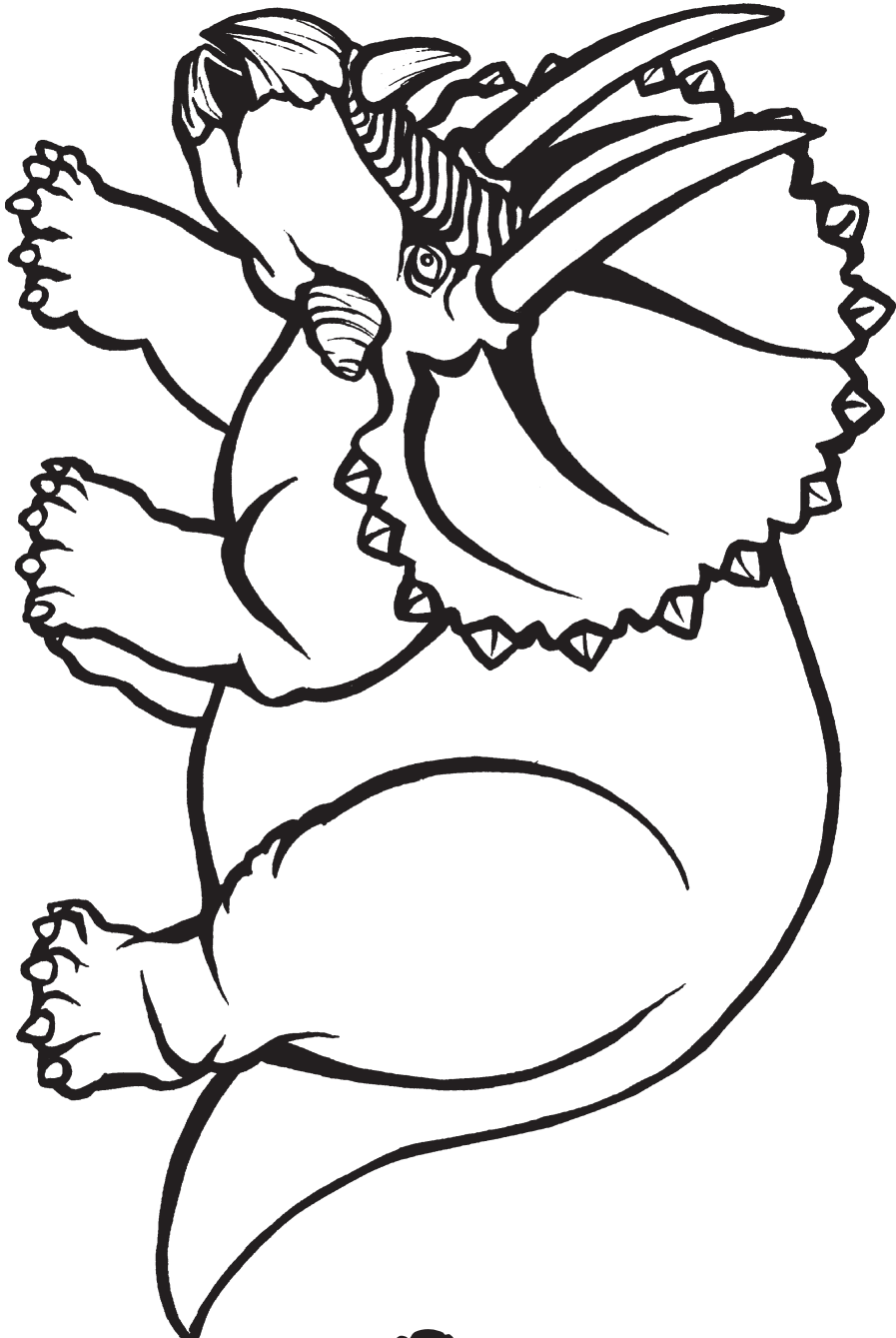
So when I draw huge dinosaurs,
I choose three colors, maybe four,
and paint them bright. Now, I suppose
that scientists would not oppose.

(Chorus)



Green And Blue And Purple Too?

Paleontologists are not sure what colors the dinosaurs were. They can only guess that the dinosaurs may have been colored to match their surroundings, just as most animals are today. Color Triceratops to show how you think it may have looked.



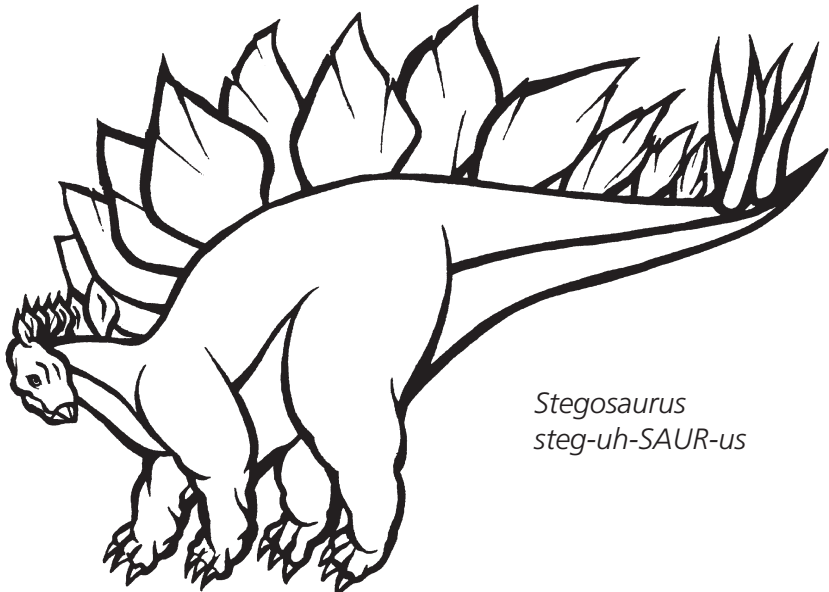
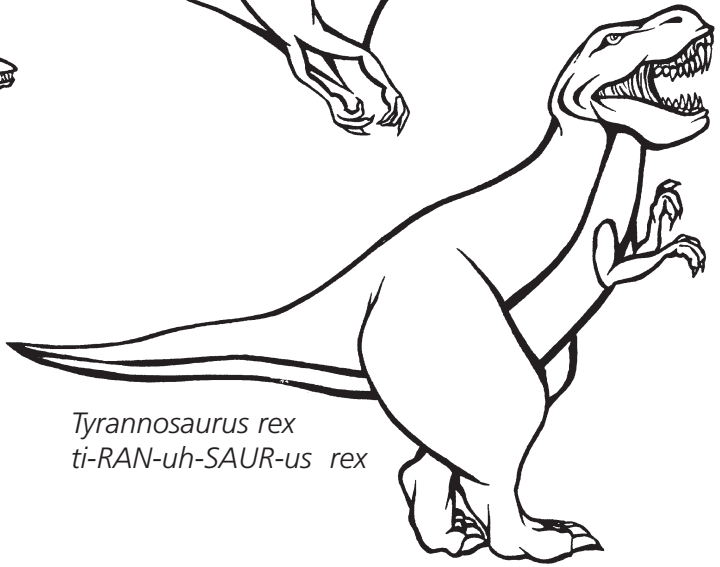
Learning The Names Of Prehistoric Animals

Pteranodon
ter-AN-uh-don



Compsognathus
COMP-sog-NATH-us

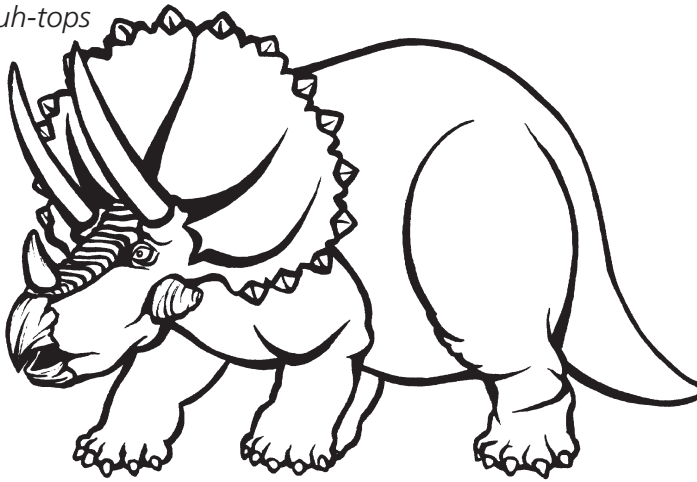
Tyrannosaurus rex
ti-RAN-uh-SOUR-us rex



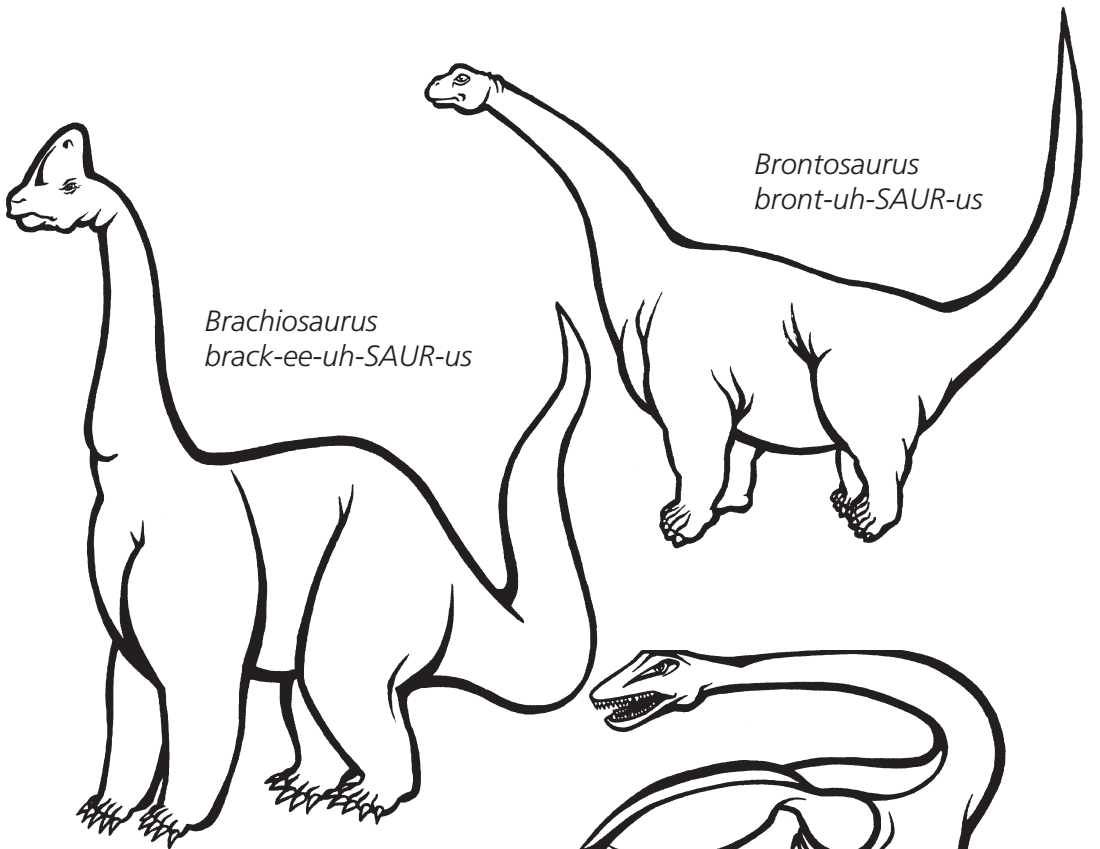
Stegosaurus
steg-uh-SOUR-us



Triceratops
try-SAIR-uh-tops



Saltopus
SALT-o-pus



Brachiosaurus
brack-ee-uh-SOUR-us

Brontosaurus
bront-uh-SOUR-us

Plesiosaurus
pleez-ee-o-SOUR-us



Tyrannosaurus rex Didn't Get His Supper

**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)

It had big feet with four toes,

but one was turned around.
In fact, this backwards toe, it didn't
even touch the ground.

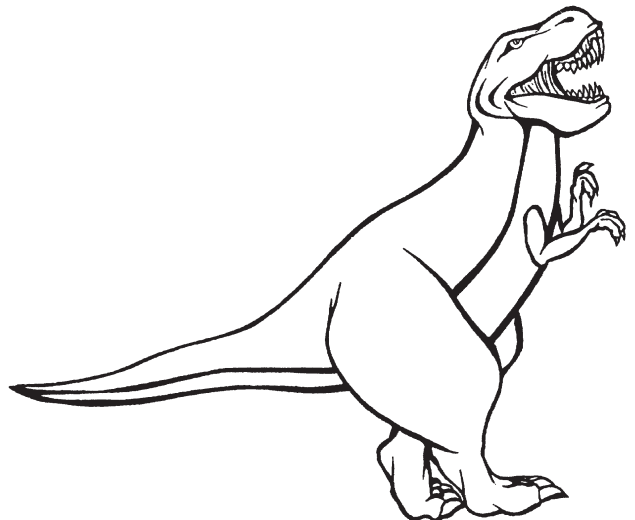
The front legs were a little shorter,
but they had long sharp claws.
To eat they were not needed,
for rex used his mighty jaws.

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.

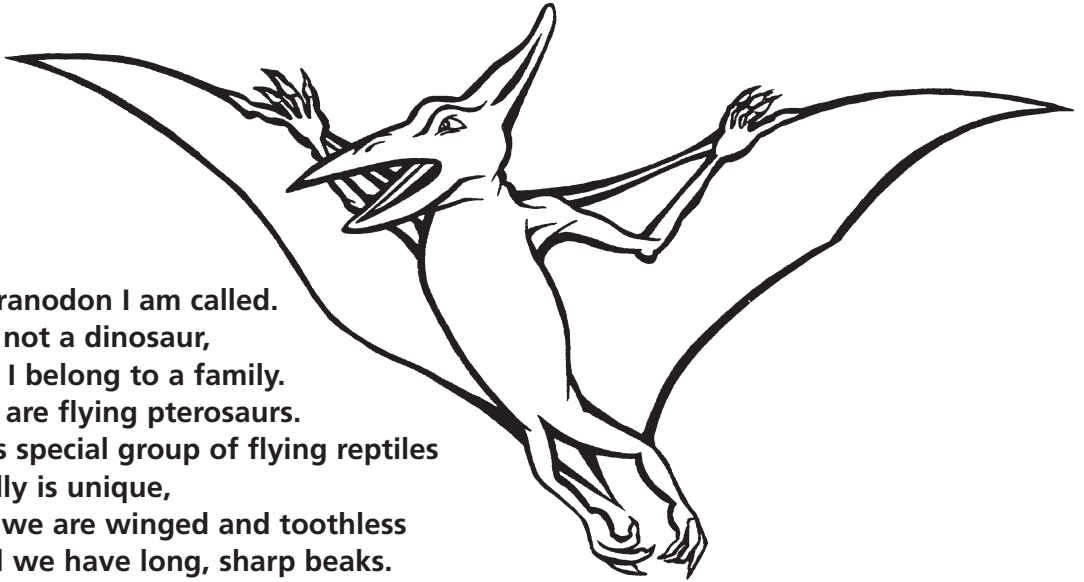
I'm sure it had no friends
with which to run and play,
for most dinosaurs they knew
they should stay very far away.

(Chorus)

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



I'm Not A Dinosaur



**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)

I Am Stegosaurus

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?

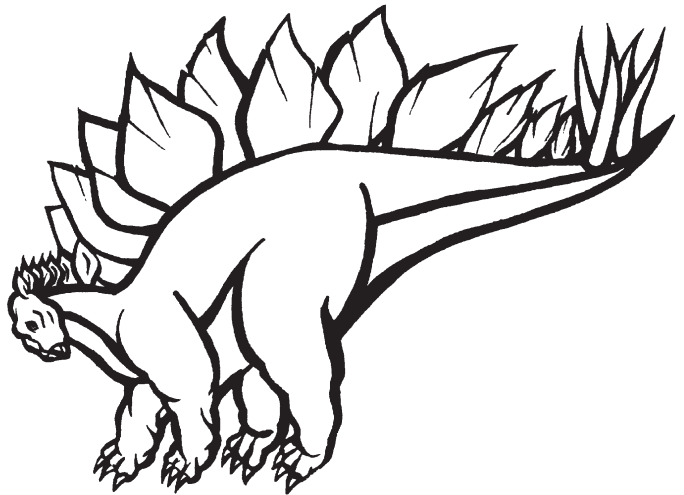
My legs are quite impressive.
Look close and you will see,
for twice as long my back legs stand
than my front legs stand on me.
I feed on vegetation,
as my mouth looks like a beak.
In the back are rows of tiny teeth
which I know are weak.

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.

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.



Write A Dinosaur Poem

Write a poem about your favorite dinosaur.

Line 1: Dinosaur's name

Line 2: Three words that describe the dinosaur

Line 3: What this dinosaur eats

Line 4: Another name for the dinosaur

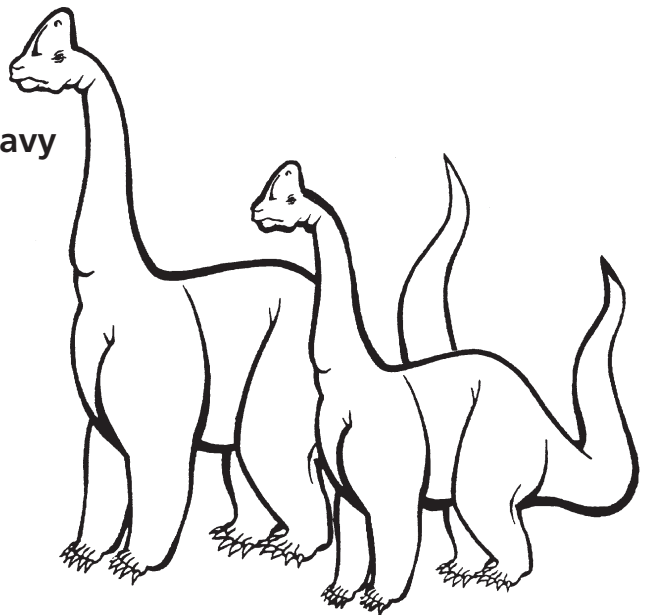
Example:

Brachiosaurus

Enormous, long-necked, heavy

Plant eater

Arm lizard



Write your own poem.

The Brachiosaurus Rap

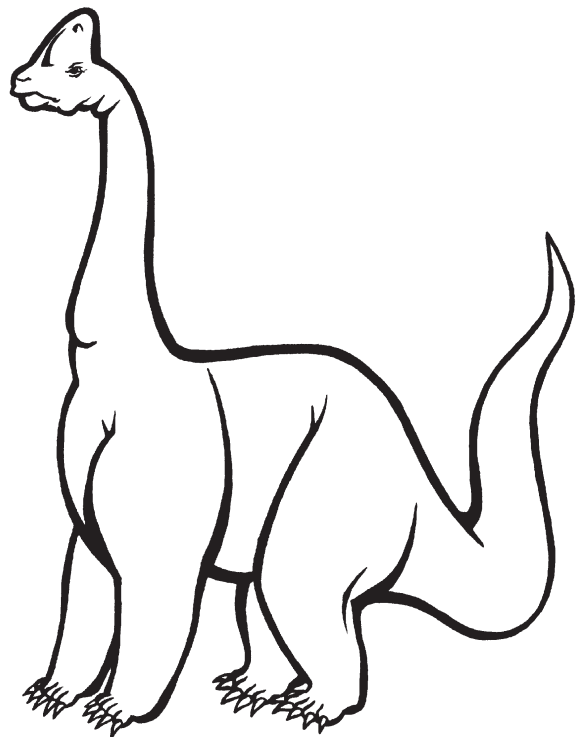
Man, this dinosaur weighs a lot,
about 85 tons, they say.
And long, oh yes, about 85 feet
when measured yesterday.
Some paleontologists found some bones
in Africa—a continent—
and learned a lot about this
massive beast,
a great accomplishment.

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.

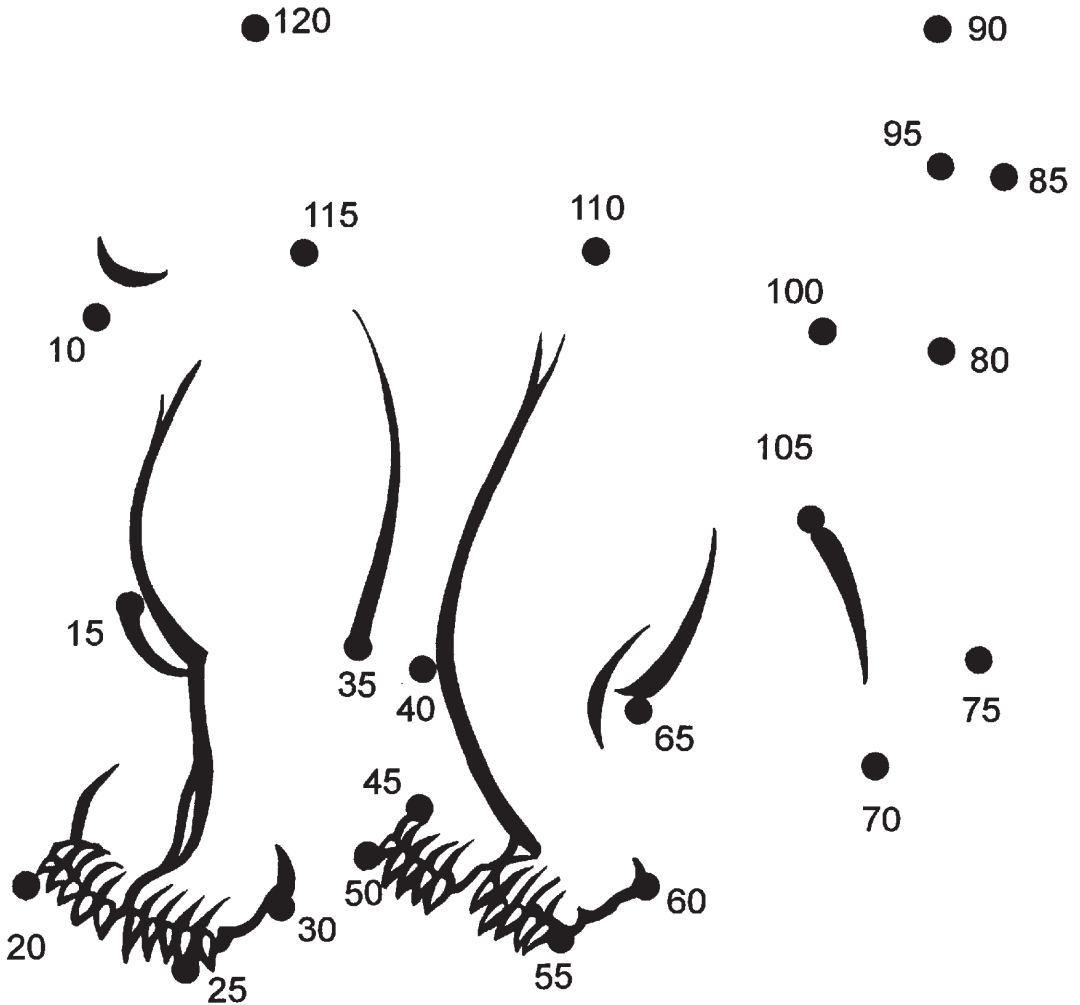
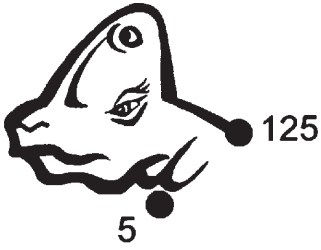
Brachiosaurus had a nose
located above his eyes,
and right on the top of his head that nose
was used to breathe and sigh.
He may have snorted in a friendly way
in order to communicate,
or simply breathe without a pause
while Brachiosaurus ate.

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.



Connect The Dots

Count by 5s and connect the dots to make Brachiosaurus.



Let's Go On A Dinosaur Dig

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.

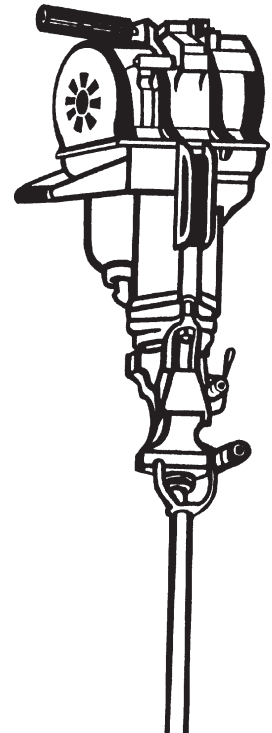
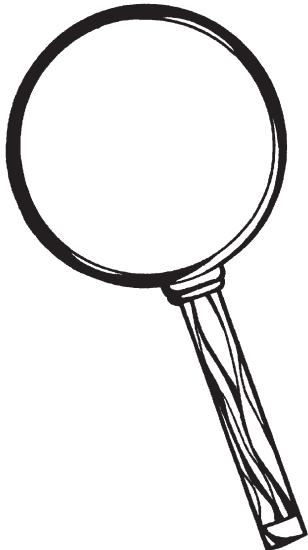
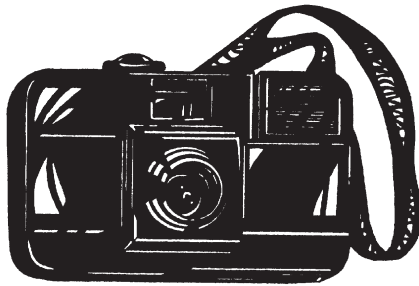
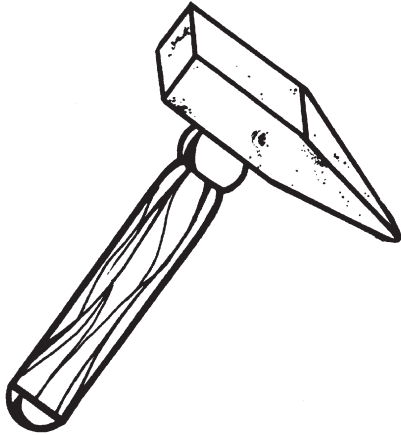
A magnifying glass I'll take
and keep right by my side.
I'll look at teeth or small fossils
that I hope we will find.
Now, if we find a huge amount
of fossils in the ground,
we might need ropes and pulleys
to move them all around.

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!



Tools For The Trade

Circle and color the tools that a paleontologist would use.



Plesiosaurus, Do You Like To Swim?

**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.

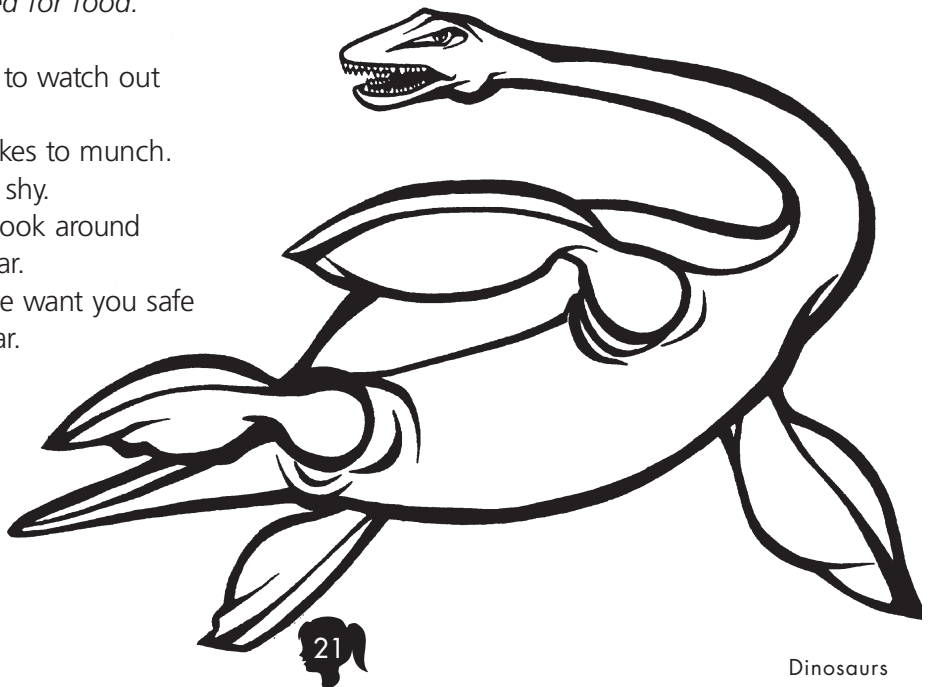
Plesiosaurus needs to watch out
as it swims on by,
for Ichthyosaurus likes to munch.

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)



Good Things Come In Small Packages

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!

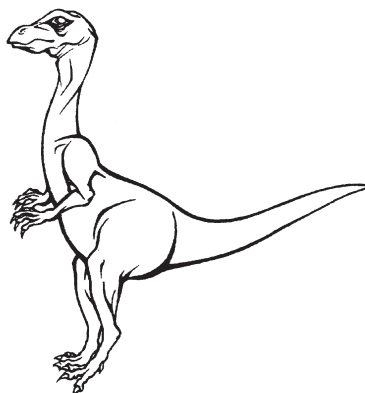
Compsognathus is my name
and I am very small.
My body is covered with feathers,
and I'm not very tall.
They say I'm the size of a pigeon
or maybe even a chicken.
I run and hide from Allosaurus,
for he is not my friend.

(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.

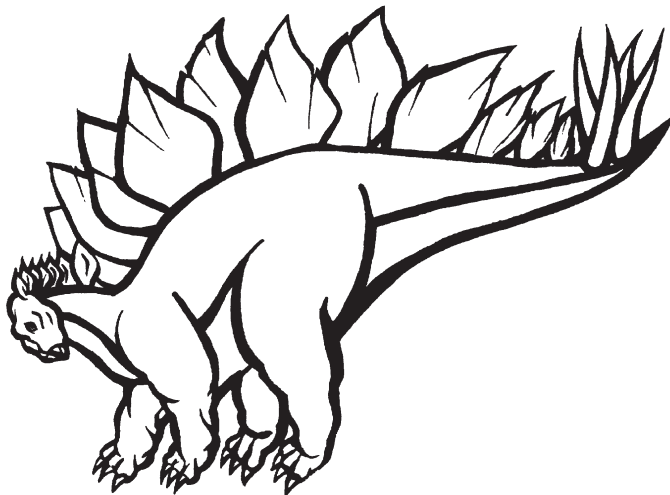
(Chorus)



Dinosaur Quiz

True or false? Read each sentence below. If it is true, put a "T" in the blank. If the sentence is false, put an "F" in the blank.

- _____ Some dinosaurs, like Compsognathus and Saltopus, were very small.
- _____ Plesiosaurus was a very fast runner.
- _____ Fossils are the preserved remains of plants or animals.
- _____ No one is sure what really happened to the dinosaurs.
- _____ Pteranodon was a dinosaur.
- _____ Stegosaurus had bony plates on its back.
- _____ Tyrannosaurus rex was not a good hunter.
- _____ Triceratops had four horns on its head.
- _____ Brachiosaurus weighed about 85 tons.
- _____ Fossils make up certain fuels like gas, coal, and oil.



Answers: T, F, T, T, F, T, F, F, T, T

You Can Be A Paleontologist

Dear Friends:

My name is Dr. Lisa Park. I am a paleontologist. I study fossils to learn about the history of life. I also study why fossils form and why the animals and plants lived where they did. I am particularly interested in animals called ostracods, which are tiny shrimp in a shell. I also study mammals, particularly small ones like mice, squirrels, and rabbits.

I like to go to interesting places to collect and study fossils. I have been to Indonesia and Africa, as well as to deserts in the western United States. I like being a scientist because I am curious about the world around me and like to learn more about it.

To become a paleontologist, I had to go to college and then to graduate school, which is a special type of college. It took me a long time to become a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.), but it was worth it.

As a paleontologist, I have worked in a museum and at a university. I enjoy teaching and doing research. It is lots of fun!

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisa Park

