



Grade Level:

PreK-K

Subject Area:

Science
Language Arts

WMELS:

Listening and Understanding: A.EL.1

Mathematical Thinking: Comparisons & Patterns: B.EL.4

Mathematical Thinking: Concept of Measurement: B.EL.5

Scientific Thinking: Observations: C.EL.1

Social Competence: Social Interactions: C.EL.2

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Dinosaurs

Lesson Guide

Program Overview:

By participating in the Dinosaurs program, children will compare different life-sized dinosaurs on exhibit and handle bones and artifacts. Children will also categorize characteristics and features through observation and interactions.

Background:

Dinosaurs lived on earth approximately 230-65 million years ago, during the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods along with other reptiles, mammals, fish, and insects. Paleontologists learn different things from different fossils including what dinosaurs looked like, what they ate, how they lived and how they moved. Land-dwelling or non-avian dinosaurs share many important features, like leg structure, with modern day birds. In fact, birds are avian dinosaurs - dinosaurs that can fly.

Student Objectives:

1. To discuss the differences between different types of dinosaurs
2. To interact with specimens and artifacts from the museum collections
3. To observe the different habitats of dinosaurs

Assessment:

1. Children will have used observation and active investigations to learn the similarities and differences of meat-eating (carnivorous) and plant-eating (herbivorous) dinosaurs.
2. At hands-on activity stations in the classroom, children will have applied knowledge and skills that were discussed and observed during the program.

Vocabulary:

Carnivore: an animal that eats other animals

Dinosaur: an extinct, chiefly terrestrial reptile that lived in the Mesozoic Era

Extinct: having no members of the species or family in existence

Fossil: the remains of an animal or plant preserved from an earlier era inside a rock or other geologic deposit, often as an impression or in a petrified state

Herbivore: an animal that feeds only or mainly on grass and other plants

Paleontologist: scientist who studies dinosaurs and fossils of other living species: reptiles, mammals, fish, and insects

Enrichment Vocabulary:

Artifact Omnivore Predator Prey Replica Skeleton

Procedure:

Meet your Museum educator at the bottom of the grand staircase on the ground level five minutes before your scheduled program start time.