Put all the cards that describe dinosaurs that ate meat here!

Animals that eat meat are called **carnivores**.

Put all the cards that describe dinosaurs that ate plants here!

Animals that eat plants are called **herbivores**.

Walked on four legs

Walked on two legs

Flatter, wider teeth

Sharper teeth

Swallowed rocks to help digest food

Often had horns, bony skull frills, or thickened bones

Thumb spikes

Sharp claws

Powerful legs for running quickly

Eyes on the front *or* side of their heads

Eyes on the sides of their heads

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Once you've sorted the cards into herbivore and carnivore groups, use this sheet to check your work and learn more about paleontology and meat-eating and plant-eating dinosaurs.

Paleontology is the study of lifeforms from the deep past, represented by the fossils of plants, animals, and other organisms that lived thousands or millions of years ago. Dinosaurs are just one kind of animal that paleontologists study; these scientists study all kinds of life forms from the past to understand how these animals lived and interacted.

A fossil is preserved evidence of past life. Fossils can take different forms. Some fossils are body fossils, like bone, teeth, leaves, or shells. Some fossils are trace fossils, like footprints or coprolites. (A coprolite is fossilized poop!)

When paleontologists find fossils from different animals in the same layer of the earth, that can mean those animals lived at the same time. One example is the *Hell Creek* diorama at MPM. The exhibit shows the *Tyrannosaurus rex, Triceratops, Struthiomimus,* and *Dromaeosaur* in one time and place because our scientists found their fossils together.

Some dinosaurs, the meat-eaters, were predators. A predator is an animal that eats other animals. Some dinosaurs, largely the plant-eaters, were prey. Prey are the animals that predators eat.

Carnivores

- **Sharper teeth**
  Sharper teeth helped the dinosaur slice into other animals. The Tyrannosaurus rex *had serrated teeth. That means the edges of its teeth were slightly jagged or sawlike.*
- **Sharp claws**
  This helped the meat-eating dinosaurs tear into their prey.
- **Walked on two legs**
  This helped the dinosaur run quickly to catch other dinosaurs to eat.
- **Powerful legs**
  This helped the dinosaur run quickly to catch other dinosaurs to eat.
- **Eyes on front or side of their heads**
  Eyes facing front helped the dinosaur focus on its prey.

Herbivores

- **Walked on four legs**
  Some four-legged dinosaurs' heads were low, so they ate plants close to the ground. Some four-legged dinosaurs had long necks, which allowed them to eat food higher in trees.
- **Flatter, wider teeth**
  Wider, flatter teeth helped the dinosaurs grind the plants they ate.
- **Swallowed rocks to help digest food**
  Paleontologists call these rocks gastroliths. Some animals today exhibit the same behavior.
- **Often had horns, bony skull frills, or thickened bones**
  These helped the dinosaur protect itself from predators.
- **Thumb spikes**
  These may have been used for food or defense.
- **Eyes on the sides of their heads**
  Eyes on the sides of their heads helped them keep a lookout for predators.