

A Prehistoric Preschool Welcome

Rumble, rumble. Stomp, stomp, stomp! Could that be the sound of dinosaurs thundering down the hall? No, but it *could* be the sound of excited preschoolers arriving at your door! Calm your Jurassic jitters by using these dinosaur-themed ideas to prepare a prehistoric preschool welcome for your new class. Have a “tremenda-saurus” year!

ideas contributed by dayle timmons and Angie Kutzer

A Prehistoric Present For You!

You can have enormous impact on youngsters' entry into preschool with these pre-preschool fun packs. Before the first day of school, prepare a dinosaur project, a dinosaur nametag, a welcome note, and dinosaur crayons for each child. Then deliver the fun packs during home visits prior to opening day. To prepare a pack for each child, duplicate the dinosaur pattern on page 7 onto white construction paper, the note on page 8 onto colorful paper, and a dinosaur nametag on page 9 onto colorful construction paper; then cut them out. Personalize the dinosaur pattern and nametag. To make dinosaur crayons for each child, put old crayons of the same color in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave on low, stirring occasionally. Pour the melted crayon wax into dinosaur-shaped candy molds (available where cake and candy supplies are sold). Place the molds in the freezer; then pop out the crayon shapes when they're solid. Seal one of each color of crayon in a plastic sandwich bag. Place the dinosaur pattern, note, nametag, and crayons in a lunch bag decorated with dinosaur stickers or dinosaur-themed notepad pages. Later use youngsters' completed dinosaur projects during your first group time, as described in “Getting To Know ‘You-asaurus’ ” on page 5.

Making Tracks

Encourage independence by creating a “dino-rific” path that your little foot stompers can follow to your class on the first days of school. Make a dinosaur-paw template by enlarging the pattern on page 8 to the desired size. Then trace a supply of the pattern onto colorful Con-Contact® covering. Cut out the paws; then attach them to the floor in a path that leads from the school entrance to your classroom door. If desired, post a sign near the beginning of the path that reads, “These dinosaur paws are on the floor, so you can follow them to [your name]'s door!” Parents and children alike will be making tracks to find out what else you have in store!

These dinosaur
paws are on the
floor, so you can
follow them to Mrs.
Timmons' door!

Dazzle 'em With Dinosaurs

ideas by Lucia Kemp Henry

Maybe it's that they were larger than life. Maybe it's that so much about them has been left to the imagination. But whatever the reasons, young children have an insatiable fascination with prehistoric creatures. Knowing this, we've packed five pages with top-notch dinosaur ideas. So, go ahead, razzle-dazzle 'em with reptiles from long, long ago.

Dinosaur Duds

Although fossilized bones give us a concrete model of dinosaurs' scaffoldings, our impressions of their outer coverings are largely theory-based. Read aloud the poem below to propel students into imaginative thoughts about the colors and textures of dinosaur hides. Discuss the poem and brainstorm with your youngsters lists of ideas for skin colors and textures.

As you are discussing textures, ask youngsters to observe interesting surface textures around the classroom. Give each youngster a white construction-paper copy of page 15, 16, or 17 and a crayon from which the paper has been removed. Have each child place his paper atop a textured surface, dinosaur pattern up, and make a crayon rubbing. Have students cut out these textured dinosaurs and display them

on a black bulletin-board background with gray paper boulders, the largest of which bears a copy of "Decked-out Dinosaurs."

Decked-out Dinosaurs

What kind of skin
Did a dinosaur wear?
Did it have some feathers?
Did it have some hair?

How did it feel
To touch dinosaur skin?
Was it bumpy and thick
Or slick, smooth, and thin?

What were the colors
It wore in those days?
Were they bright reds and pinks
Or cool blues and grays?

How do we know
What a dinosaur wore?
We imagine and color...
That's what crayons are for!

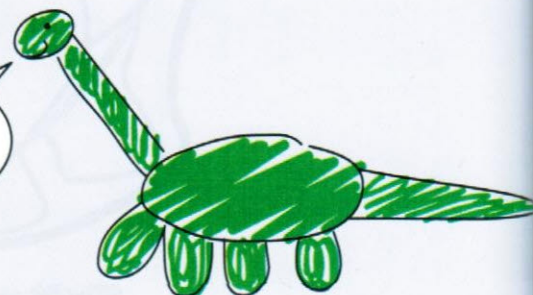
by Lucia Kemp Henry

Too Big For Words

Help your youngsters imagine just how big dinosaurs were by using the chart supplied here. Have youngsters compare the sizes of several dinosaurs to common things such as trees, cars, buses, and buildings. Lead your youngsters in brainstorming synonyms for the word *big*. Then ask each student to write or dictate a sentence telling about the size of a dinosaur. Supply a length of bulletin board paper and paints, and have students take turns painting giant dinosaurs on the paper. When the artwork is dry, copy students' sentences into speech balloons drawn on the paper, so that the dinosaurs appear to be saying the sentences.

Ornitholestes	6 feet
Camptosaurus	15 feet
Stegosaurus	20 feet
Tyrannosaurus rex	40 feet
Apatosaurus	80 feet

A dinosaur was as big as my mom's car!



...In The Time Of Dinosaurs.

Background For The Teacher Dinosaur Sizes

Today, when we think of dinosaurs, we think of towering giants like Tyrannosaurus rex (18 feet tall, 46 feet long) and Diplodocus (88 feet long). Scientists have discovered that dinosaurs existed in a wide range of sizes. Like modern animals, dinosaurs fit into a wide variety of environmental niches, with sizes to match.

Anchisaurus was small—about eight feet long—but only as tall as an adult human's knee. It was light in weight and most likely agile in order to avoid larger predators. It probably ate plants.

Velociraptor was about six feet tall. It was most likely a swift carnivore, preying on other dinosaurs. Some believe that, because of its small size, it may have hunted in groups, like wolves.

Ceratosaurus was a midsized dinosaur—20 feet long—much taller than a man, but shorter than a Tyrannosaurus. It was a carnivore with massive jaws and sharp, curved teeth. It may have been quite agile and, being large, was probably a solitary hunter.

How To Use Page 45

1. Share the facts above about each dinosaur on the worksheet. Have each child identify the dinosaur as you discuss it. Then have him cut out the dinosaur and glue it in the appropriate box.
2. As a follow-up, enlarge the dinosaurs; then attach each one to the top of a language experience chart. Draw a vertical column for each dinosaur. Remind the children of the sizes of these particular dinosaurs, and encourage them to think of things they know of that are the same size. List the suggestions under each dinosaur. For example, Velociraptor was as big as a man, or perhaps as tall as the slide on the playground.

Finished Sample

Name Trevor In The Time Of Dinosaurs
Size comparison

Dinosaur Sizes

Dinosaurs came in all sizes.
Discuss.
Think.

Cut. Glue.

Anchisaurus little

Velociraptor big

Ceratosaurus giant

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