

DINO ACADEMY:

A Dino Discovery Adventure

ALWAYS FREE

JUST 1 OF 50+ SHOWS ON TOUR THIS SEASON!
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Paleontology Key Terms

Paleontologist:

A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils to learn about dinosaurs and other ancient life.

They dig, discover, and tell stories about the past!

Fossil:

A fossil is the remains or shape of a plant or animal that lived a long time ago and got preserved in rock. Think of it like nature's time capsule!

Extinct:

When a living thing is extinct, it means it no longer exists anywhere on Earth. Dinosaurs are extinct—but we can still learn about them!

Sediment:

Sediment is tiny pieces of rock, sand, or dirt that can pile up over time. Fossils often form when these layers cover plants or animals and slowly turn to rock. It's like nature's blanket that helps preserve ancient treasures!

Prehistoric:

Prehistoric means a time before people wrote things down—long, long ago when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. It's history that happened before there were



Grades

Dino Academy is a roaring good time for all ages—packed with laughter, learning, and larger-than-life creatures that will have you on the edge of your seat (or hiding behind it)! This show is perfect for students in grades Pre K - 5th.

ABOUT THE SHOW!

Welcome to Dino Academy, where science meets adventure—and the dinosaurs are back! Join the brilliant and fearless paleontologist Dr. Sarah Tops as she opens the doors to her top-secret dinosaur facility for the very first time. With a mix of science, humor, and prehistoric surprises, Dr. Tops introduces the audience to a variety of dinosaurs—each with their own quirky personalities and fun facts. From stomping stegosaurus to clever velociraptors, this interactive journey brings the ancient world to life right before your eyes.

Mary Anning (1799–1847)

Mary Anning was a fossil hunter from England who made some of the first big fossil discoveries in the world—including the first complete ichthyosaur skeleton when she was just 12 years old! Even though she didn't get much credit during her lifetime, scientists now recognize her as one of the most important paleontologists in history!

FAMOUS PALEONTOLOGISTS

Othniel Charles Marsh (1831–1899)

Marsh was an American paleontologist who discovered and named dozens of famous dinosaurs, including Triceratops, Stegosaurus, and Apatosaurus.

He was part of the famous "Bone Wars," a fossil-finding rivalry with another scientist named Edward Cope!

Jack Horner (Born 1946)

Jack Horner is a modern American paleontologist known for discovering dinosaur nests and eggs, and proving that dinosaurs cared for their young. He also helped show that birds are related to dinosaurs!

He was a science advisor for the Jurassic Park movies and helped make the dinosaurs more realistic!

DINO FACTS!

The word dinosaur comes from the Greek language and means “**terrible lizard**”

Dinosaurs ruled the Earth for over 160 million years during what scientists call the **Mesozoic Era**.

Dinosaurs died out around **65 million years ago**.

A person who studies dinosaurs is known as a **Paleontologist**.

Did you know? Birds descended from a type of dinosaur known as theropods.

The first dinosaur to be formally named was the **Megalosaurus**, back in 1834.

Tyrannosaurus Rex means “**tyrant lizard king**” but is often shortened to T-Rex. The Field Museum in Chicago has a 85% complete T-Rex skeleton, the dino’s name is Sue :)

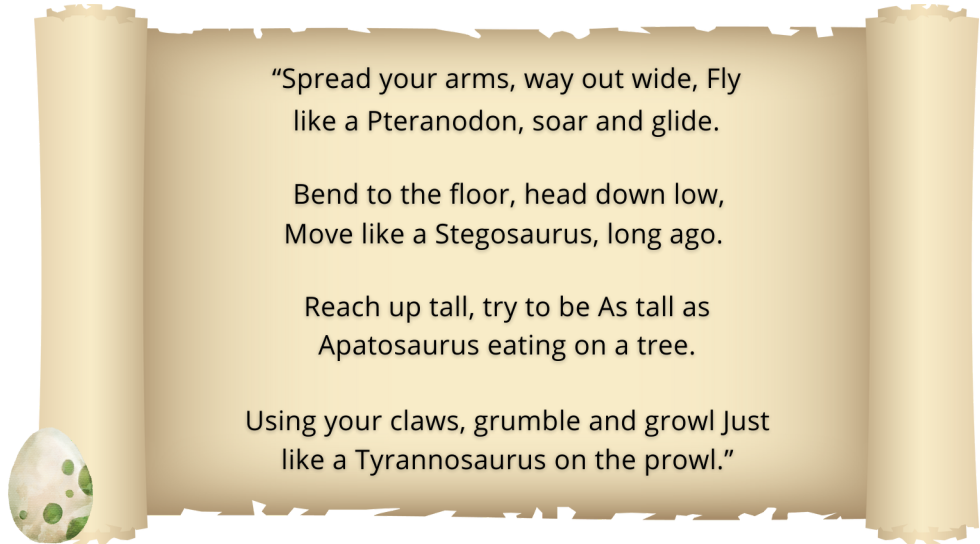
Triceratops means “**three horned face**” and their skull could grow over 7 feet in length! They also had anywhere from **400 to 800 teeth!**

Stegosaurus’ were **herbivores**, which means they only ate plants and their brains were the same size of a dogs.

The Apatosaurus is one of the largest animals to ever, they are **75 feet tall!**

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

Live action poem! *This activity requires a large poster.* Write the poem down on large poster paper so everyone can follow along. Have the students stand up to recite and act out this Dinosaur themed poem by Nancy Klein. The students should remember meeting these dinosaurs’ in our play but a little picture reminder of what each dino looks like might help inform their acting choices.



“Spread your arms, way out wide, Fly
like a Pteranodon, soar and glide.

Bend to the floor, head down low,
Move like a Stegosaurus, long ago.

Reach up tall, try to be As tall as
Apatosaurus eating on a tree.

Using your claws, grumble and growl Just
like a Tyrannosaurus on the prowl.”

Egg-cellent Dinosaurs!

This activity requires 2 blank sheets of paper, crayons, stapler or tape, and scissors.

- On the first, draw your very own dinosaur, be sure to give them a really dino-mite name.
- Next, using your second piece of paper, cut out a large egg, big enough to cover at least most of your dino drawing.
- Finally, staple or tape your egg on top of your dino drawing to show that dino’s come from eggs but could become large creatures.



Matchmaker Game! *This activity requires dinosaur stickers and index cards and at least 2 players.* Place your dinosaur stickers on one side of each index card, make sure you stick a matching sticker to another index card. Once you have used up all your stickers, lay the index cards dino side down, mixing them up as you go. Now for the really fun part! Each player will take their turn picking up their first card, then try to find your dino’s match. You only get one try to find the match so if you guess wrong, flip both cards back over. Do your best to remember where each dino is. If you get a match, keep those cards. The player with the most matches at the end of the game wins!

Dino Says!

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This game is just like Simon Says, but with a prehistoric twist! One player (or the teacher) is “Dino”—and gives dinosaur-themed commands.

Kids only follow the command if you say “Dino says...” first!

Example Commands:

“Dino says stomp like a T-Rex!”

“Dino says fly like a Pteranodon!”

“Dino says stretch your neck like a Brachiosaurus!”

There are eight hidden objects In this study guide. Can you find them all?

Bone, magnifying glass, fossil, egg, brush, leaf, foot print, tooth

DINOSAUR JOKES!



What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes? A doyouthinkhesawus

Why do museums have old dinosaur bones? Cause they can't afford new ones.



What did dinosaurs use to make their hot dogs? Jurassic Pork.



Why did dinosaurs go extinct? Because they wouldn't take a bath.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Bring up these discussion topics to the whole class. Allow some time for the students to bounce ideas off of one another.

1. What do you think happened to all the Dinosaurs? Scientists says that 65 million years ago, a mass extinction occurred. What could have caused that?
2. What is a carnivorous dinosaur? What kinds of foods might they eat? What is an herbivorous dinosaur? What kinds of foods do they eat?
3. What do you think the world would be like if Dinosaurs hadn't gone extinct? Would you keep one as a pet? Would you be scared? How would you feel?
4. Why do you think it's important that we learn about dinosaurs?
5. What are some things that other people do that you are impressed by? Do you think it's important that people have different strengths and weaknesses?

LET'S CREATE OUR OWN DINOSAURS



Using construction paper, newspaper, paper plates or other recyclables--create your very own dinosaur! What does your dinosaur look like? What's the name for your dinosaur? Where would he live, eat and what would he do for fun?

Another option would be to paint or draw these new dinosaurs--if you're looking for a little less mess.



Teach your students about the different kind of dinosaurs--some flew, some swam, some were tiny little things and some were gigantic! In an open area have the students walk around the space--you will then call out the various kinds and they will walk

PUT ON A PLAY: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In our production we used dinosaurs to spread an important anti-bullying message. Breaking into small groups can you create your own production that you can present to the class that has it's own important message?

This activity can be great for creative writing, working as a team, presenting in front of a class, understanding stories, and more!



YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Try new things and do your best at them!

There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!

Before, During and After the Play...



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

*What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character?
Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend?
Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!*



In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"



Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

! THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?

2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.

3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.

4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.

5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.

6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.

7. We're based in North Carolina.

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition 2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors) 3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it). 4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props. 5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between.

Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

DINO ACADEMY

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

DINO ACADEMY

Made its debut in 2026

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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