

## Dinosaurs and Fossils: Science Lab Explorations

**Topics covered:** Students investigate fossils of dinosaurs that lived in North America millions of years ago. We pull out a pick hammer and safety goggles from a paleontologist's backpack full of fossil hunting tools. Then, student volunteers unearth a nest of dinosaur eggs, teeth, claws, bones and skin impressions from indoor "dig pits". Later, they pass cast fossil specimens to compare the relative sizes, diets, and defense strategies of some of America's most recognizable dinosaurs and learn what fossils can tell us about animal adaptations.

**Ages:** K-3

**Purchase Details: Science Lab Explorations - \$5 per student**

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2362

Wednesday - Saturday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

### Objectives:

1. Explain what paleontologists study, how they work, and the tools they use.
2. Understand how fossils are formed and why scientists study them.
3. Recognize that non-avian dinosaurs are now extinct
4. Know the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore.
5. Realize examination of teeth provides information about the daily life of dinosaurs.

### Vocabulary:

dinosaur

extinct

paleontologist

fossil

carnivore

herbivore

coprolite

gastrolith

Allosaurus

Camarasaurus

Iguanodon

Maiasaura

Triceratops

Tyrannosaurus rex

### Fun Facts:

- Some scientists believe birds are relatives of dinosaurs. That would mean our national symbol is a dinosaur.
- Even though T.rex was over 40 feetlong, his brain was just one foot.
- Only five dinosaur bones have been found in Tennessee. In the Mississippi River Valley, marine fossils are more common

## Web Resources:

Zoom Dinosaurs-- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs>

Dinosphere--Indianapolis Children's Museum--

<http://www.childrensmuseum.org/exhibits/dinosphere-now-youre-their-world>

Kids Know It Network--<http://www.kidsdinos.com/>

Pre-school Dinosaur Activities--<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/preschool-dinosaur-activities-sensory-play/>

## Museum Resources:

- **For Your Classroom:** Borrow a Dinosaurs Suitcase Exhibit, featuring lessons for grades K-5 with posters, books, teeth, claws, and lots of dinosaur models. The *Fossils Suitcase* has object-based learning for grades 3-8 that includes sifting through a bucket of Bone Valley ore. The *Magnifiers Suitcase* presents hands-on specimens for examination by grades K-2. Our *Dinosaurs Passport* includes casts of dinosaur fossils, fun activities and several dinosaur models.
- **In the galleries:** Visit our Natural History Exhibits on the ground floor. Examine a Triceratops skull, a Camarasaurus leg bone, and Mid-South marine fossils in the Walk-Through Time Gallery. Make your own dinosaur comparison to birds in the Birds Gallery.

**Where:** Pink Palace Discovery Lab or Theater (for 33-100 students) or Classroom (for 15-32 students)

**When:** August-May Tuesday-Friday at 9:30 & 11 am 45-60 Minutes

- **Standards:**
  - (Grade Level) K-3 (Science)
- **Tennessee:**
  - GRADE K: K.LS3.1, K.ETS2
  - GRADE 1:
  - GRADE 2: .LS1, 2.LS2, 2.LS3, 2.ETS2
  - Grade 3: 3.LS1, 3.LS4
- **Mississippi:**
  - GRADE K: L.K.1, L.K.2, L.K.3, L.K.4
  - GRADE 1:
  - GRADE 2: L.2.3B, L.2.4
  - Grade 3: L.3.1, L.3.4
- **Arkansas:**
  - GRADE K:
  - GRADE 1: 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1
  - GRADE 2: 2-LS4-1
  - Grade 3: 3-LS4-1
- **Catholic Diocese:**
  - GRADE K:
  - GRADE 1: 1.II.1, 1.II.4, 1.V.6
  - GRADE 2: 2.II.1, 2.II.4, 2.II.4, 2.V.7
  - Grade 3: 3.II.2, 3.II.3, 3.II.4, 3.II.5, 3.V.6