

**Unit Name/Theme:** Dinosaurs. Learning about dinosaurs and comparing their size.

**What are we doing?**

In this lesson children will:

- Learn dinosaur names
- Learn about the different sizes of dinosaurs
- Learn how to measure using simple tools
- Begin to understand that some animals share similar characteristics
- Practice estimating

**Purpose/Why?** Children will learn observation skills, measuring skills, and how to compare and contrast items.

**Materials:**

Provided

- Plastic dinosaur models
- Measuring tape and ruler to compare size
- Sieves
- Brushes

You will need to provide

- Paper and pencil
- String to measure

Other

- Link to template to make dinosaur feet out of paper
- [http://www.amnh.org/content/download/49960/759329/file/dino\\_05\\_big.pdf](http://www.amnh.org/content/download/49960/759329/file/dino_05_big.pdf)

**Books:**

- "Dinosaur Parade" by Shari Halpern
- "National Geographic Little Kids First Book of Dinosaurs" by Catherine D. Hughes
- "Dinosaur Dig" by Penny Dalee

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### Ask a Question

- How big is a dinosaur?
- Are all dinosaurs the same?
- How are they alike?
- How are they different?



### Vocabulary Builder

- Tyrannosaurus Rex (tye-RAN-uh-SAWR-us)
- T-Rex
- Triceratops (try-SAIR-uh-tops)
- Brachiosaurus (BRACK-ee-uh-SAWR-us)
- Archeologist
- Fossil
- Ice Age
- Reptile
- Excavate
- Carnivore
- Herbivore
- Look at Dino Dictionary at <http://www.dinodictionary.com/index.asp> for the pronunciation of the dinosaur names.

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**Quick Start**

Read a book about dinosaurs



**Ask a Question**

- What are some of the names of dinosaurs?
- How big were dinosaurs? Is a dinosaur bigger than you or smaller than you?
- How are dinosaurs the same?
- How are dinosaurs different?



**Quick Start**

Write the beginning letter that corresponds with the dinosaur's name and draw a picture.



**Quick Start**

Estimate the size of a dinosaur by looking at a footprint. Using the template suggested in "other" materials, have the child lay down to measure the size compared to him/her. Introduce a ruler or measuring tape. Measure a full length dinosaur using string.



**Ask a Question**

- How many shoes would fit in a dinosaur print?
- How many children would fit in the footprint?

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**Deeper Dive**

Explore with your child the different types of dinosaurs and what they eat, how they move, etc. Have your child compare and contrast different types of dinosaurs.



**Ask a Question**

- How are dinosaurs the same or different?
- How do they get around?
- What do they eat?



**Deeper Dive**

Explore with your child how scientists have found dinosaur remains. Talk with your child about archeologists and fossils. Use sand to find fossils and pretend they are dinosaur bones. You can bury the skeleton dinosaur models (like a fossil) and let the children excavate them.



**Ask a Question**

- Why don't we have dinosaurs now?
- How do we know about dinosaurs?



**Deeper Dive**

Have your child draw their own dinosaur. Let your child give it a name and have them tell you about it. Write down what they tell you about the dinosaur. You can also have them "write" about the dinosaur and then you write the story underneath as they tell you the story. This reinforces narrative skills and gives the child practice with the fine motor skills of writing.