

Stay at Home Science

Paper Plate Dinosaurs

What You Need

Paper plates
Scissors
Brass fasteners
Markers, crayons or paint
Stapler or glue



What You Do

1. Draw one of the dinosaur templates from imaginationstationtoledo.org onto your paper plate.
2. Cut out the parts of your dinosaur.
3. Attach the dinosaur head and tail to the body using brass fasteners to allow them to move. (If you do not have brass fasteners, you can also staple or glue these in place.)
4. Use a stapler or glue to attach the rest of the dinosaur's parts to the body.
5. Color your dinosaurs.
6. Play! Talk about dinosaurs as you play together.

Questions to ask

- Why do you think the Stegosaurus had plates along its back?
- What color do you think a Tyrannosaurus Rex would be?
- What sounds do you think these dinosaurs made? Do you think they all sounded the same or different?

What's the Science?

Dinosaurs were reptiles that lived between 230 and 65 million years ago that are now extinct. They ranged greatly in size: from the pigeon sized troodontid to the enormous sauropods that grew up to 50 meters long. Scientists learn about dinosaurs by studying their fossils - the bones, teeth, footprints and other traces preserved in sedimentary rocks all across the world.

Try This

Use science vocabulary: Use related science words such as dinosaur, extinct and fossil as well as dinosaur names such as Stegosaurus and Tyrannosaurus Rex as you talk and play together. Children learn new vocabulary words when they hear grown-ups use them in context.

For older children: Add an extra challenge for older children. Skip the template and encourage them to create their own dinosaur from scratch. Encourage them to create a story for their dinosaur that includes its name, size, where it lived and other interesting facts about it!

Keep In Mind

- Children are natural scientists; let them lead the way in their experimentation! Encourage them to ask questions and make suggestions only when they are stuck/discouraged.
- The order suggested is not the only right or perfect way. Adjust the activities based on the age, ability, and interests of the children.

Additional Resources

I Am NOT a Dinosaur by Will Lach
Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs by Byron Barton
Khan Academy and American Museum of Natural History
<https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/amnh/dinosaurs>

