

Dinosaur Eggs and Babies

Grades PreK – Kindergarten Educational Program Guide

PASS

PreK Science Process 1.1, 1.3 | Physical Science 2.1 | Life Science 3.1, 3.2

Kindergarten Science Process 1.1–1.3 | Physical Science 1.1 | Life Science 2.1, 2.2

OAS

K-LS1-1 | Science Practices 1, 2, 4, 6, 8

Crosscutting Concepts, Structure and Function, Patterns

Program Overview

This program is centered on an original story, “Are You Our Mother,” about two Tenontosaurus hatchlings. The different dinosaur characters in the story, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Ankylosaurus, Oviraptor and Tyrannosaurus are discussed prior to reading the story. Following the story, the museum educator will lead the students in an entertaining egg experiment.

Objectives

After participating in this program, students will be able to:

- ➔ Identify six different dinosaurs – Tenontosaurus, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Ankylosaurus, Oviraptor and Tyrannosaurus – by their distinguishing characteristics and eating habits;
- ➔ Understand the protection an egg offers the fetus inside;
- ➔ Realize that our understanding of dinosaurs is based on fossil evidence.

Background

Through scientific research, information has come to light about dinosaur parental behavior. While data does not exist for all dinosaurs, we do have good evidence that Maiasaura and Oviraptor, for example, took care of their eggs and, possibly, hatchlings. Paleontologists from the Sam Noble Museum found additional evidence on parental care at a site with both adult and juvenile Tenontosaurus and interpreted as evidence that Tenontosaurus took care of their young.

At the Museum

Hall of Ancient Life

Exhibits in the Jurassic and Cretaceous sections of the Ancient Life Gallery relate to the Dinosaur Eggs and Babies program. Students can compare Tyrannosaurus rex to our meat-eating Sauraphaganax that lived during the Jurassic Period, look at the Tenontosaurus display and count the horns of the Pentaceratops, related to the Triceratops, in the Cretaceous Period exhibit.

Vocabulary

Egg	eggs contain a developing embryo, a food source (yoke), protective membranes and sometimes a hard or leathery shell. Amphibians (frogs), reptiles (snakes), birds and dinosaurs all lay eggs
Fossil	fossils are usually the bones, shells, or other hard parts of plants and animals that were alive in the past; when a bone has fossilized, minerals (stone) have replaced the living material
Tyrannosaurus Rex	one of the largest meat eating dinosaurs of all time; Tyrannosaurus rex had sharp teeth about 6" long and powerful jaws
Stegosaurus	a plant eater from the Jurassic, or middle period of dinosaur life; Stegosaurus had a spikes on the end of its tail, and large plates on its back
Triceratops	this dinosaur was alive during the Cretaceous, at the same time as Tyrannosaurus rex; it was a large plant eater
Ankylosaurus	this heavily armored dinosaur was alive during the Cretaceous, at the same time as Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops; it is related to Stegosaurus, with a heavy club on the end of its tail instead of spikes
Oviraptor	a Mongolian dinosaur; when scientists first found Oviraptor they thought it was an egg-eating dinosaurs; scientists have re-interpreted the fossils as showing that Oviraptor was protecting its own eggs
Tenontosaurus	this is a plant-eating dinosaur that has been found in SE Oklahoma, as well as Montana