



WEEK 2:

DISCOVER
DINOSAURS

ARE YOU READY TO GO BACK IN TIME? GET READY FOR A TRIP THROUGH THE AGES AS WE LEARN ABOUT DINOSAURS!

Dinosaurs were ancient reptiles that roamed the Earth millions of years ago. Hundreds of species of dinosaurs have been discovered so far and they came in all shapes and sizes. Some dinosaurs walked on four legs, some walked on two legs, some were as small as a cat and some were taller than a house! Scientists who study ancient living things, like dinosaurs, are called paleontologists. They learn about dinosaurs by finding and studying fossils, which are the remains of ancient living things. Fossil bones are bones that have been replaced by rock and minerals over a very long time. By looking at fossil remains of dinosaurs, and comparing them to animals alive today, paleontologists can understand what dinosaurs may have looked like, how they moved and how they lived!

DAY 5:

DESIGN-A-SAUR

Like modern animals today, dinosaurs had different adaptations (features) to help them survive in different ways. Some dinosaurs had long, sharp teeth to eat meat, while others had short, flat teeth to chew plants. Some dinosaurs, like *Stegosaurus*, had plates or armor on their bodies to protect them from predators. Dinosaurs could be tall enough to reach the tops of trees, like *Apatosaurus*, or small enough to camouflage within the plants on the ground. Paleontologists study a dinosaur's adaptations to use them as clues to figure out what a dinosaur looked like and how they might have interacted with their environments!

Before you start, you should have:

- A coin
- Clay or Playdough (make at home: Mix one cup flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt, one teaspoon vegetable oil and food coloring, if desired).

or

- Paper and markers, crayons or paint
- Paper and pencil

1. Flip a coin for each of the categories below. Write down your dinosaur's adaptations on the paper.

Legs:

- Two legs (heads)
- Four legs (tails)

Neck:

- Long neck (heads)
- Short neck (tails)

Tail:

- Long tail (heads)
- Short tail (tails)

Body

- Long body (heads)
- Round body (tails)

Armor

- Armor-covered body or plates (heads)
- No armor or plates (tails)

Colors:

- Camouflaged (heads)
- Brightly colored (tails)

Special Features 1:

- Horns (heads)
- Long claws (tails)

Special Features 2:

- Sharp teeth (heads)
- Beak (tails)

Special Features 3:

- Frill (the large part on the back of a Triceratops' head) (heads)
- Feathers (tails)

2. Use the adaptations to design your own unique dinosaur! Draw or paint your dinosaur on a piece of paper or build it with playdough or clay. As long as your dinosaur includes the features you selected, you can add anything else you would like to your dinosaur.

3. Repeat as many times as you would like and see how many different dinosaurs you can design!

Keep Exploring!

- After you have designed your dinosaur, design a habitat for it to live in. Think about how your dinosaur might use its adaptations to survive (would it use a long neck to eat from tall trees or use horns as protection from other dinosaurs?) and include that in its new home.
- Design two dinosaurs with the same adaptations but make them as different from each other as you can.
- Make your own categories to choose from!

More information on dinosaur adaptations:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_UJOdFx89I&t=54s



<https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/dino/adaptation.html#:~:text=Some%20grew%20larger%2C%20some%20began,each%20new%20kind%20of%20dinosaur.>



What did you find?

What did you discover? Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!



Sam Noble Home



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