



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 Fossil bones are bones that have been replaced by rock and minerals over a very long time.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 4:

PALEO QUEST

Paleontologists learn about the past by studying fossils, which are the remains of ancient living things that have been replaced by sand or sediment (tiny pieces of rock and mineral) and turned into rock over time. Not just dinosaurs become fossils. Paleontologists have found fossilized plants, fish, insects, worms and even bacteria! Paleontologists can also learn about the environments ancient animals lived in by studying the world around us today. By comparing modern animals and environments to fossils of living things from the past, we can understand how ancient animals, like dinosaurs, probably lived and what their habitat would have looked like. Let's explore like a paleontologist!

Before you start, you should have:

- A place inside or outside where you can explore
- A journal or paper
- Pencil, pen or crayons



Sam Noble Home



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Get started:

1. Go explore in or around your house, neighborhood or a natural area.
2. Look for the different things that relate to fossils and how they are formed:
 - A rock
 - Sand, dirt or mud
 - Water
3. Look for modern animals (if you can't go outside try looking for pictures of them):
 - A bird
 - A reptile (like a turtle, lizard or snake)
 - Another animal that walks on four legs
 - Another animal that walks on two legs

Do any of the animals look similar to dinosaurs?

Do any of the animals move like a dinosaur?

4. Look for things a dinosaur might need to survive (if you can't go outside try looking for pictures of them):
 - Something a very tall plant-eating dinosaur might eat
 - Something a very short plant-eating dinosaur might eat
 - Something a meat-eating dinosaur might eat
 - A place a large herd of dinosaurs could live together
 - A place a dinosaur could hide from predators
5. Draw or write about what you find.
 - Do you think a dinosaur could live in an area like the one you're exploring? Why or why not?
 - What was your favorite thing you found on the quest? Why?

Keep Exploring!

- Watch a bird or reptile for a few minutes (or find videos or pictures of them) and draw or write about what you observe. Then pretend you are observing a dinosaur and draw or write about what you imagined your dinosaur doing.
- Imagine you are a paleontologist preparing to go on a fossil dig. What kinds of tools would you need, where would you go and what kinds of fossils do you think you might find? Write down the plans for your dig in your journal!

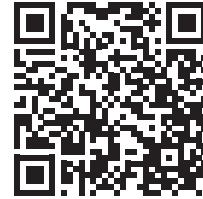
What did you find?

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!

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More information on paleontology:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/paleontology/>



<https://www.amnh.org/explore/paleontology>



Join Sam Noble Museum educators as they head outside to complete the Paleo Quest!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ouy-R8tI5_o

