

Lesson 1: What is a dinosaur?

Introduction: In this first lesson we will explore what children think dinosaurs are and look at what a dinosaur really is.

We will also get children to play a simple game using music and movement (you may want to do this part outside or in the hall).

Vocabulary page: Here are the words you are going to use within the lesson.

Use 'my turn, your turn' to introduce each word. For example: Point to yourself and say "dinosaurs" and then point to your students for them to repeat "dinosaurs". Once the children have said this then explain the word to your students. (You can also use the flash cards provided and hold these up as you say the word).

Dinosaur: A special kind of animal that lived on land a long time ago.

Extinct: No longer alive we cannot see them in the world we live in.

Prehistoric: A very long time ago.

Bones: Hard parts of the body which make up a skeleton.

Fossils: Fossils are parts of an animal which have made marks within the rock and has turned to rock itself over millions of years.

Palaeontologist: A scientist who explores prehistoric times.

1. Ask your children this question: "What was/is a dinosaur?"

You could use the method Think | Pair | Share

Think: Ask children to think about the word 'dinosaur' - what does it mean, how would you describe a dinosaur, what key features did it have? (Give children time to think with their eyes closed).

Pair: Speak with a partner to explain your ideas (children face either other and take turns to explain their reasoning and thoughts).

Share: Children turn and face the teacher, prepared to feedback to the teacher (children don't need to have hands up).

Listen to the children's answers and mark down observations on the slides or on separate pieces of paper.

2. Introduce our Palaeontologist, David (scientists who explore prehistoric times). Explain that we are going to watch a short video to find out more about dinosaurs with his help.

https://videocentralhd.lgfl.org.uk/premium_play.aspx?id=t1aQvDI86iW

David explores how we can tell if an animal is a dinosaur or not. He discusses how you can use the position of the legs to understand this.

3. What is a dinosaur? When scientists talk about dinosaurs, they mean a special kind of animal that lived on land a long time ago which had legs tucked under their body.

A lot of people say "dinosaur" when they mean any creature from along time ago, such as sea creatures or animals that flew such as pterodactyls.

Read the information above pointing at each picture and word.

DINOSAURS

4. Show children that dinosaurs tucked in their legs (like humans) but there were other animals that lived a long time ago that weren't called dinosaurs because they lived in the sea, flew in the air or had legs that were not tucked in.

Using the images on the next slide, ask children to explore how each prehistoric animal would have moved and talk about if it was a dinosaur or not? Embedded is a music file from Audio Network for children to move to.

5. As the slide plays, the music will start. As each prehistoric animal comes up to explain a little about each animal and ask the children to move like the animal.

Pterosaur: Had large wings that they could use to fly.

Plesiosaur: Had large flipper-like legs that helped them to swim.

Archosaur: A giant lizard that walked on land with their legs spread out.

Tyrannosaurus rex: A giant creature that walked on land with legs tucked in.

6. Once the children have sat back down ask them which prehistoric animal(s) a dinosaur is/are actually.

Ask children to explain in a full sentence and give a reason why they have chosen that particular animal.

7. Now the lesson is finished, point out and explain all of the dinosaur exploration activities that you have planned/set out within the classroom. (See Dinosaurs exploration activities for ideas and pictures you can place within this slide).