

Lesson 5: Were all dinosaurs big?

Introduction: In this fifth lesson, we will explore just how big were dinosaurs and whether all of them were big?!

We will explore children misconceptions about all dinosaurs were big and attempt to show them the scale of large dinosaurs.

We will use Uni Fix/Multilink to measure various dinosaurs and put them in order.

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 to for them to repeat “dinosaurs”. Once the children have said this then explain the word to your students. (You can also use the flashcards provided and hold these up as you say the word).

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

Prehistoric: A very long time ago

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

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

1. Ask your children these questions: “Were all dinosaurs big? How big do you think they were?”

You could use the method Think | Pair | Share

Think: Ask children to think about the images they may have seen of dinosaurs were they all big? Could a dinosaur fit in a classroom? (Give children time to think with their eyes closed).

Pair: Speak to a partner 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 markdown observations on the slides or on separate pieces of paper.

At this point, we can explore children misconceptions about all dinosaurs always being big and attempt to show them the scale of large dinosaurs.

2. Explain that we can only guess at the size of a dinosaur by looking very closely at the clues left behind within bones and fossils, sometimes we don't have all the parts of a dinosaur's body.

3. Although some dinosaurs were the largest land animals ever to have lived, many were tiny.

Among the smallest were species of Compsognathus. Some were the size of a chicken.

Use the grid to see how many 'Compsognathus' make up the height of an adult.

Explain that we can only guess at the dinosaur size by looking very closely at the clues left behind within bones and fossils.

Although some dinosaurs were the largest land animals ever to have lived, many were tiny.

Among the smallest were species of Compsognathus. Some were the size of a chicken.

DINOSAURS

4. Argentinosaurus was the largest dinosaur but we have very little evidence on just how big.

Use the grid to see how many 'people' make up the height of an 'Argentinosaurus'

5. Print out the Dinosaur size sheets in A3 and divide your class into groups or partners. Give each partner/group a set of dinosaur sheets and some Uni-Fix/Multilink cubes to measure the height of each dinosaur. (It might be easier to put this in a basket).

6. Ask the children to measure each dinosaur and place the dinosaurs in height order. Once the groups have done this, get them to come back as a group and place the dinosaurs together in height order.

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