



ARE DINOSAURS REALLY EXTINCT?



Compare ostrich skeletons to dinosaur skeletons

GRADES 2-4

KEY WORDS

- extinct
- dinosaur

STANDARDS

- SCI.3.2.4
- SCI.4.3.2

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn that modern day reptiles are related to dinosaurs and share many characteristics with them.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Birds, including ostriches, are now believed to be descended from reptiles and dinosaurs.
- An example is the dinosaur *Struthiomimus*, which means “ostrich copier” in Latin because it looked and acted like an ostrich.
- Birds and dinosaurs share many characteristics, sometimes including skeletal structure.
- Ostriches are flightless birds and rely on their long legs to carry them across land.

PROCEDURE

- Have students complete the worksheet and discover which skeletons belong to ostriches by ruling out the *Struthiomimus* skeletons.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check for completion and accuracy of students’ work.
- Have students compare their results in groups and discuss why ostriches might look like *Struthiomimus*.

ANSWERS

- The ostriches are the skeletons without tails.





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Compare the skeletons and discover which skeletons belong to birds.

Name _____

- Step 1: Cross out the two that look exactly the same.
- Step 2: Cross out all that have their heads down and have a long tail.
- Step 3: Cross out all that have their heads up, a straight neck, and one limb raised.
- Step 4: Circle all that are left. These should be the real ostriches.

