DINOSAURS

Create a booklet of dinosaur species

GRADES 1-3

MATERIALS
- scissors
- glue
- index cards
- stapler

KEY WORDS
- dinosaur
- extinct
- fossil

STANDARDS
- SCI.2.3.2
- SCI.3.2.4

OBJECTIVES
- Students will learn that modern day animals and dinosaurs have similar characteristics.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- Dinosaurs were reptiles that roamed the earth for millions of years.
- Dinosaurs ranged from the size of a rabbit to the size of a four-story building.
- Scientists are able to determine characteristics of dinosaurs by using fossils and bones that are buried around the world.
- It is believed that dinosaurs are extinct due to temperature change or some other drastic event, but no one can know for sure.
- Dinosaurs were probably cold-blooded, like modern day reptiles.

PROCEDURE
- Have students cut out the dinosaur cards and glue them to a larger index card.
- Have students arrange the cards in either alphabetical order or by putting all of the plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs together.
- Have the students staple all of the cards together to form a booklet.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT
- Have students take turns reading a page from their booklet.
- Make sure the students have placed the cards in the correct order.

EXTENSIONS
- Students can make their own dinosaur fossils by casting their handprints in a suitable material. Explain that dinosaur fossils were formed in a similar way.

TEACHER HINTS
- No one has ever seen a true, living dinosaur so all information and characteristics are based on fossils and bones and not direct observation.

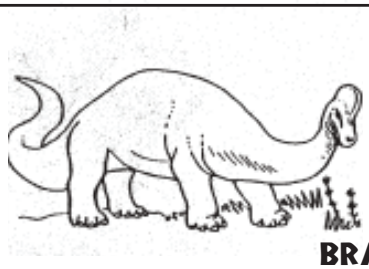
DINOSAURS

Sort the cards by plant-eaters vs meat-eaters.
Then, arrange each group alphabetically.

Name _____

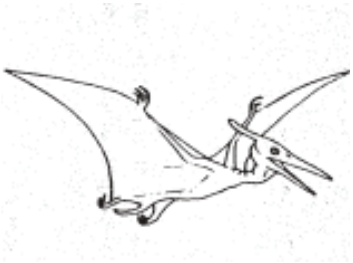
ALLOSAURUS

The Allosaurus was a meat-eating dinosaur about 30 feet long. It's huge jaws, sharp teeth and claws, and the ability to run swiftly made it a fearsome enemy.



BRACHIOSAURUS

At 81 tons, the Branchiosaurus was one of the heaviest dinosaurs. Brachiosuarus walked on huge, column-like legs. This slow-moving plant-eater had nostrils on tops of its small head.



PTERANODON

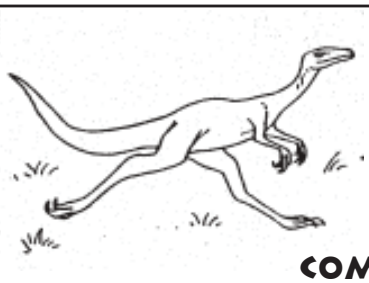
The Pteranodon was one of the largest flying reptiles and had a wingspan of about 27 feet. Pteranodons soared over the sea catching fish in their toothless, beak-like jaws.

DIMETRODON

The Dimetrodon was a long, low dinosaur resembling an iguana. It had a compact head and sharp teeth for eating meat. Dimetrodon is recognized by the fantastic "sail" along its backbone.

ICHTHYOSAURUS

The Ichthyosaurus, or "fish-lizard," was a fast swimming, fish-eating dinosaur resembling a dolphin. Ichthyosaurus used its strong tail fin to swim and leap out of the water.



COMPSOGNATHUS

The Compsognathus was most likely the smallest dinosaur. About the size of a chicken, it fed on insects and small repetiles. This bird-like dinosaur had delicate legs and hollow bones.

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PROTOCERATOPS

At 6.5 to 8 feet long, the Protoceratops was one of the smaller dinosaurs. This plant-eater had a bony collar and turtle-like beak.

DIPLODOCUS

One of the largest dinosaurs, the Diplodocus, weighed about 25 tons and was 100 feet long. The plant-eating Diplodocus used its long, snakey neck to reach for leaves in the treetops.

TRICERATOPS

The triceratops was a rhinoceros-like reptile with a bony collar and three horns on its head. This plant-eater's armor plate helped protect it from predators.

STEGOSAURUS

The Stegosaurus, or "roof-lizard," had bony plates down its back and long spikes on its tail. This dinosaur had two small brains - one in its head and the other near its hip.

TYRANNOSAURUS

The Tyrannosaurus walked upright on large, powerful hind legs. This "terrible lizard" had strong jaws and razor-sharp teeth, making it the most ferocious of the dinosaurs.

APATOSAURUS

The Apatosaurus was a massive, long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur. These reptiles herded together for protection from meat-eaters like the Tyrannosaurus.