

ACTIVITY SHEET 1: DINOSAUR SPECIES

DINO-INVESTIGATORS: IDENTIFICATION



Read fact sheet 1. Use the information and clues provided to decide what type of skeleton your dinosaur has. Draw a picture below of your dinosaur's skeleton. Think about the following questions. Tick for yes or cross for no in the boxes.

Does it have wings? Yes No

because _____

Does it live in the water? Yes No

because _____

Does it walk on four legs? Yes No

because _____



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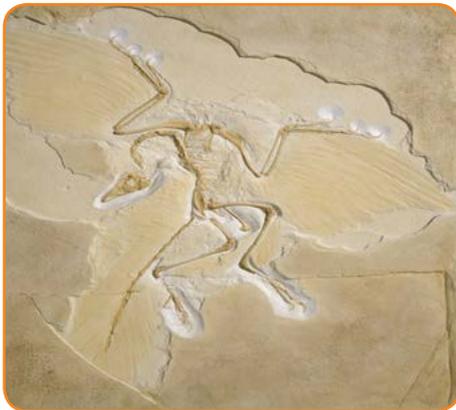


Today there are hundreds of thousands of different types of animals living all over the world in different habitats. Although many years ago it was thought that dinosaurs were all reptiles (*dinosaur comes from the Latin words for 'terrible lizard'*) we now know that some dinosaurs were actually related to modern birds and they lived at the same time as other animals like **mammals** and **insects**.

What do we know?

If we look at the skeletons of animals alive today we can see similarities to those of fossilised dinosaurs. Like the skeletons of bats and birds, archaeopteryx and other flying dinosaurs have long stretched out bones in their front limbs to form wings.

Flying dinosaurs



Fossilised archaeopteryx

Archaeopteryx means "ancient wing".
This dinosaur was the size of a chicken!
(ar - kee - op - ter - ix)

The picture shows a flying dinosaur in a fossilised form.

© The Natural History Museum, London.

Aquatic dinosaurs



Ichthyosaur

Ichthyosaur means "fish lizard".
(ik - thee - uh - sawr)

The picture shows an aquatic dinosaur in a fossilised form.

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Dinosaurs that lived in water (aquatic) needed paddle-shaped limbs like fins to move them through the water. The bones in this ichthyosaur have become flat and close together in its front limb to do this.

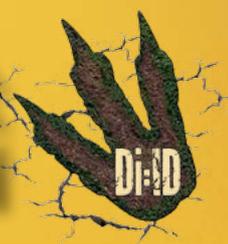


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Land dinosaurs

Some dinosaurs walked on four legs, while others walked on two. Look at the difference in the shape of the front limbs in the pictures of the Gorgosaurus and Ankylosaur.



Gorgosaurus
(Gor-go-sawr-us) "Fierce lizard"



Ankylosaur
(An-ky-lo-saur) "Fused lizard"

Like modern rhinos, dinosaurs sometimes had horn like features and some had armour-like plates, like the ankylosaur above. Horns on the head were for fighting, they were weapons. Bony plates made dinosaurs look fierce. They may have protected them from bites during battle. Some dinosaurs had spikes to fight off predatory meat eaters.

CLUE:

Our skeleton has very short front limbs with two sharp claws. Its back limbs are made up of large and long bones that would support big, powerful muscles to help this dinosaur run quickly. Which of the examples most clearly resembles this?



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