

ACTIVITY SHEET 2: DINOSAUR HABITATS

DINO-INVESTIGATORS: IDENTIFICATION

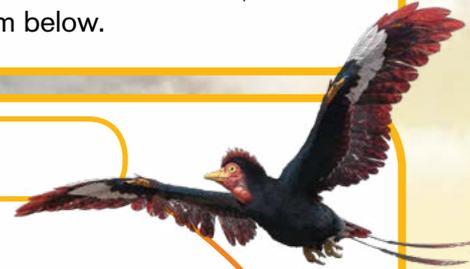


Not all dinosaurs lived at the same time nor did they live in the same part of the world. Different dinosaurs evolved to live in different habitats including deserts, forests, riversides and swamps.

Look at Fact sheet 2: Habitats. All these plants and animals lived and grew in forests and riversides, some lived in both. Can you use your detective skills to sort them into the Venn diagram below.

Riversides

Forests



Which of the plants and animals you have sorted above still exist today?

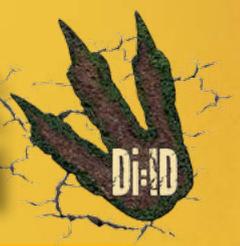
What information can you use to help identify where our dinosaur lived?



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Habitats are what we call the different types of places where animals and plants live. They can be small like a pond or a rotting log, or they can be huge like a desert or a jungle. Both animals and plants are adapted to live in their habitat and might have special features to help them live there. For example, a polar bear lives in the cold arctic so it has thick, waterproof fur to help keep it warm and dry.

The **Mesozoic era** lasted for over 150 million years, so habitats changed a lot as climates warmed up or cooled down. But we know there were warm dry grasslands and deserts, lush green forests, swamps, rivers and beaches. Many of the plants that lived during this time can still be found today, can you recognise any?

Crocodiles

Although crocodiles do walk on land as well as live in water, they hunt by pulling their prey into the water and holding them there.



Horsetail

This plant has a long thin stem surrounded by rings of small branches. It likes wet sandy soils.



Pterosaurs

Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that lived during the Jurassic period. They buried their eggs in soft sandy ground like modern turtles and crocodiles.



Edmontosaurus

This dinosaur had very specialise teeth and jaws for eating all types of plant life. Scientists think they could graze flat plains like a cow might or eat leaves and woody stems from trees and bushes.



Gorgosaurus

This dinosaur may have nested in woodland areas, but hunted the plant-eating dinosaurs that fed on the lush floodplains. It was slightly smaller than a Tyrannosaurus and had round eye sockets (T-Rex had oval eye sockets).



Conifers

There are lots of different types of conifer many are pine trees, recognisable by their thin needle like leaves. These are the type of trees we now use to decorate our homes at Christmas.



Monkey Puzzle Tree

This tree has tough scale like leaves. It grows today in South America. It likes well-drained soil because its roots can't survive in wet soil.



Holly

Holly can grow as a tree or bush. Today holly is found in woodlands and low mountain regions.



Scorpions

This highly adaptable creature can be found living today in forests, caves, deserts and on the shorelines of rivers and coasts.



Ferns

Ferns are commonly found in moist shady areas. They grow well under the shade of tall trees.



Dragonflies

Dragonflies lay their eggs in water and their young need to live in rivers or lakes.



CLUE:

Skeletons the same as our dinosaur have been found fossilised with other creatures that live in both floodplains and forests. This suggests it lived in both habitats.



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