



Dinosaurs

BOX NOTICE

Name of the activity	Dinosaurs
Activity duration	2h
Material needed	Dinosaurs box, plastic trays, sand, paintbrushes, torch or projector, ropes, large sheet of paper (A3), pencil or felt pen.
Number of pupils involved (per box)	3-4 pupils per box

Step 1: Storytelling

After a short introduction to collect the pupils' ideas about dinosaurs, you can begin introducing palaeontologists' work by reading Mary Anning's story.

Step 2: Junior paleontologist

This will certainly arouse the pupils' curiosity about this profession, which is rarely discussed. Once you've collected the pupils' ideas about the job of a palaeontologist and explained their role, you can ask them to put themselves in the shoes of a junior palaeontologist.

The idea for younger pupils (sequence 1) is to help them understand how palaeontologists search for and find elements (the pieces of dinosaurs' silhouettes) and reconstruct them.

For older pupils (sequence 2), we take the scientific approach of the palaeontologist a step further by mapping out the area excavated, taking notes of the elements found and formulating hypotheses based on the elements found.



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Step 3: Dinosaur silhouettes

The pupils create a projection of dinosaur silhouettes to summarise the different dinosaurs. Don't forget to identify the other dinosaurs by writing their names below the silhouettes.

Extension

These silhouettes can then form part of a mini-museum comprising explanatory posters and dinosaur footprints in salt dough, for example.

You could also create dinosaur bones in salt dough. If the bones are prepared in advance, they could show «before» and «after» pictures of what they buried in the sand (or soil) to show pupils how the dirt affects the perception of the remains.



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