

**Subject Area:** Science  
**Unit Title:** Exploring Dinosaurs  
**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade  
**Lesson Number:** 1 of 5

**Duration:** 45 minutes  
**Date:** March 10, 2023  
**Teacher:** Ms. Johnson  
**Room:** 204

## Curriculum Standards Alignment

### Content Standards:

- 2.L.1: Understand the basic needs of plants and animals.
- 2.L.2: Recognize and explain the concept of habitats.

### Skills Standards:

- 2.SL.1: Engage effectively in a range of discussions to explore ideas.
- 2.SL.2: Ask questions and seek help when needed.

### Cross-Curricular Links:

- Math: Measurement, Data Analysis
- English: Reading Comprehension, Writing

## Essential Questions & Big Ideas

### Essential Questions:

- What are the basic needs of dinosaurs?
- How do dinosaurs adapt to their habitats?

### Enduring Understandings:

- Dinosaurs have unique characteristics that help them survive in their habitats.
- Dinosaurs play a crucial role in their ecosystems.

## Student Context Analysis

### Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

### Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

## Pre-Lesson Preparation

### Room Setup:

- Arrange desks for group work
- Prepare dinosaur models and pictures

### Technology Needs:

- Interactive whiteboard
- Computer with internet access

### Materials Preparation:

- Dinosaur picture cards
- Whiteboard markers

### Safety Considerations:

- Ensure students handle materials safely
- Supervise students during activities

## Detailed Lesson Flow

### Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the topic of dinosaurs
- Ask students to share what they know about dinosaurs

### Direct Instruction (15 minutes)

- Provide an overview of dinosaurs
- Explain the concept of habitats and diets

#### Engagement Strategies:

- Use visual aids and real-life examples
- Ask questions to encourage participation

### Guided Practice (15 minutes)

- Show students pictures of different dinosaurs
- Ask students to identify the dinosaurs and their habitats

#### Scaffolding Strategies:

- Provide sentence stems for students to use
- Offer one-on-one support as needed

### Independent Practice (10 minutes)

- Distribute a worksheet with pictures of dinosaurs
- Have students match the dinosaurs with their habitats



### Closure (5 minutes)

- Review the key concepts learned
- Ask students to share what they learned

## Differentiation & Support Strategies

### For Struggling Learners:

- Provide extra support during guided practice
- Offer visual aids and graphic organizers

### For Advanced Learners:

- Provide additional challenges and extensions
- Encourage independent research and projects

### ELL Support Strategies:

- Use visual aids and simple language
- Provide bilingual resources and support

### Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage teamwork and collaboration
- Teach empathy and self-awareness

## Assessment & Feedback Plan

### Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Observations during activities
- Quizzes and class discussions

### Success Criteria:

- Students can identify and describe different dinosaurs
- Students can explain the concept of habitats and diets

### Feedback Methods:

- Verbal feedback during activities
- Written feedback on assignments

## Homework & Extension Activities

### Homework Assignment:

Have students draw and label their favorite dinosaur, including its habitat and diet.

### Extension Activities:

- Research and create a report on a specific dinosaur
- Create a diorama of a dinosaur habitat

### Parent/Guardian Connection:

Encourage parents to ask their child about what they learned and to discuss their favorite dinosaur.

## Teacher Reflection Space

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### Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

### Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

## What are Dinosaurs?

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Dinosaurs were a group of reptiles that dominated Earth's landscapes during the Mesozoic Era, which lasted from about 252 million to 66 million years ago.

## Types of Dinosaurs

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- Herbivores (plant-eaters)
- Carnivores (meat-eaters)
- Omnivores (eat both plants and meat)

## Dinosaur Habitats

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Dinosaurs lived in a variety of habitats, including deserts, forests, and coastal areas.

## Unique Features

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- Scaly skin
- Bony skeleton
- Lay eggs

## Diet and Digestion

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The diet of a dinosaur played a crucial role in its survival and evolution.

## Size and Weight

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Dinosaurs came in all shapes and sizes, from the small Compsognathus to the massive Argentinosaurus.

### Tyrannosaurus Rex

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The Tyrannosaurus Rex was a massive carnivore that lived during the Cretaceous period.

### Stegosaurus

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The Stegosaurus was a plant-eating dinosaur with a row of plates on its back.

### Velociraptor

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The Velociraptor was a small, feathered carnivore that lived during the Cretaceous period.



### Summary

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In this lesson, we explored the fascinating world of dinosaurs, learning about their unique characteristics, habitats, and diets.

### Reflection

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#### What did you learn?

- What were some of the most interesting things you learned about dinosaurs?
- What would you like to learn more about?

### Next Steps

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In the next lesson, we will continue to explore the world of dinosaurs, learning about their evolution and extinction.

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### Formative Assessment

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- Observations during activities
- Quizzes and class discussions

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### Summative Assessment

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- Written test on dinosaur characteristics and habitats
- Project on a specific dinosaur

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### Feedback

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Feedback will be provided throughout the lesson, with opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and set goals for improvement.

### Research Project

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Have students research and create a report on a specific dinosaur, including its characteristics, habitat, and diet.

### Diorama

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Have students create a diorama of a dinosaur habitat, including plants, rocks, and other features.

### Creative Writing

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Have students write a creative story or poem about a dinosaur, using their imagination and knowledge of dinosaur characteristics and habitats.

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