



# Dinosaurs



Children are born scientists—they love to explore and discover. There are many activities that you can enjoy doing at home with your little scientist.

## QUESTIONS

- How many dinosaurs can you name?
- Do you know any Australian dinosaurs?
- Are there any dinosaurs alive any more? Why/why not?

## TRY THIS AT HOME

### Make Foot Prints

We know a lot about dinosaurs because of fossilised foot prints. You can make your own foot or hand prints in baked dough. They might not last over 65 million years but they will last a long time. Here is a simple recipe that you can use to make play dough that you can bake.

### You Will Need

- Two cups salt
- Two cups warm water
- Five cups flour
- Food colouring
- Oven

## WHAT TO DO

Mix the ingredients to make a firm dough to mould with your hands. You may need less than two cups of water, but no more than two cups of water. If the dough is too mushy, add more flour to make it firm.

1. Once you have made the dough, put your hand print or foot print into the dough. You may choose to write the date as well.
2. Then bake in the oven at 150°C for one hour. If you want to hang the shape, make sure you put a hole in the top before you bake it. Use a non-stick baking tray.
3. You can paint it after it has baked and cooled. Have fun!



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Dinosaurs became extinct approximately 65 million years ago.
- Some dinosaurs ate meat, where other dinosaurs ate insects and some ate plants.
- There is no Brontosaurus, despite being a number of peoples favourite dinosaur, there isn't an actual dinosaur called Brontosaurus. It was a mistake. The skeleton that was called Brontosaurus turned out to be two different dinosaurs combined—the body of an Apatosaurus with the head of a Camarasaurus.
- 'Dinosaur' means 'fearfully great lizard' but dinosaurs are quite different to modern day lizards; dinosaurs are much more similar to birds. Scientists say birds evolved from dinosaurs while dinosaurs were still living.

Open 9 am to 5 pm every day. Closed Christmas Day.  
Admission fees apply.  
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## TRY THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES

- We don't know what colour dinosaur skin was. If you could have a dinosaur what colour would you like it to be? Next time you draw a dinosaur you can make it all the colours of the rainbow and no one can say that's wrong.
- Dinosaur names always mean something, for example Triceratops means 'three horned face' and Stegosaurus means 'roofed lizard'. What do you think Tyrannosaurus Rex means? Dinosaurs are named by the scientists who dig them up. If you had discovered a dinosaur, what would you call it?
- Dinosaur fossils are dug up by dinosaur scientists called palaeontologists. You can bury your dinosaur toys in a sand pit (or ask someone else to bury them) and then dig them up, brush them off and clean them just like a real palaeontologist.

## SING SONGS

Sing this song with your child. Can you make up other lyrics to the tune of Twinkle, twinkle little star?

### Twinkle, twinkle, dinosaur

Twinkle, twinkle dinosaur,  
He can do a great big ROAR.  
When he eats he CHOMP, CHOMP, CHOMPS.  
When he walks he STOMP, STOMP, STOMPS.  
Twinkle, twinkle dinosaur,  
He can do a great big ROAR!

## READ BOOKS

Have fun finding more books at your local library, book store or online.

- *First Dinosaur Encyclopaedia – a first reference guide to the prehistoric world* by Doring Kindersley
- *The Big Book of Dinosaurs – A First Book for Young Children* by Doring Kindersley
- *Amazing Facts about Australian Dinosaurs* by Scott Hocknull & Alex Cook

## GO ON AN EXCURSION

Go on a dinosaur excursion! Here are some suggestions in the Canberra region.

- See Questacon's favourite dinosaur, Mutty the Muttaborrasaur, in Questacon's dinosaur puppet shows during most school holidays. Call Questacon for details.
- Have a closer look at dinosaurs at the National Dinosaur Museum at Gold Creek Village, open Monday to Thursday.

## INVESTIGATE WEBSITES

There are many websites for children about dinosaurs. We suggest you start with:

- Play games, watch videos and learn about dinosaurs at <http://pbskids.org/dinosaurtrain/>
- Play dinosaur games at <http://www.kidsdinos.com/dinosaur-games/index.php>
- Watch dinosaur videos at <http://dsc.discovery.com/dinosaurs/>
- Take a closer look at bizarre dinosaurs at the National Geographic website at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2007/12/bizarre-dinosaurs/dinosaur-interactive>