Group Activity: Science - Lesson 1 - How Big Is a Dinosaur?

Objective:
In this activity, students are engaged in answering a scientific inquiry by using logic-based evidence, observation, and prediction to report formulated explanations linked to scientific knowledge.

Materials:
- Picture book about dinosaurs
- Dinosaur sizes poster (provided)
- Dinosaur images (provided)
- Markers
- Tape measure
- Masking tape
- Scissors

Duration: 30 minutes

Preparation:
1. Obtain a book about dinosaurs with sizes included. Suggestions: *Dinosaurs Life Size*, *The Big Book of Dinosaurs*, *Prehistoric Actual Size*, and *Life Size Dinosaurs.*
2. Print, laminate, and cut:
   a. The dinosaur sizes poster (1 for entire class)
   b. The dinosaur images (1 set for entire class)
3. Secure a large area (gym, hallway, etc.) where you can conduct the activity.

Extension:
- Have students draw a picture of a dinosaur.
- Ask students how many lengths of them it would take to be as long as a chosen dinosaur.

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Activity Script:
We recommend using the following verbal cues as you model each step.

1. **"Today we're going to do a project about the sizes of dinosaurs. First let's look at a book about dinosaurs."**
   [Look through one of the suggested books or any other book with realistic dinosaurs.]

2. **"Let's talk about the different dinosaurs that we just looked at. Which animals do you remember from the book?"**
   [Prompt students to identify the different dinosaurs that they saw in the book.]

3. **"Now it's time to guess which dinosaur is the biggest. Which dinosaur do you think was the largest?"**
   [Prompt students to make their predictions by naming which dinosaurs they think are the largest.]

4. **"We can now look at a poster to see how big dinosaurs actually were."**
   [Indicate the dinosaur sizes poster.]

5. **"Now it's time to see how long these dinosaurs actually were. We're going to look at the measurements on this poster and use some masking tape to compare their sizes."**
   [Referencing the dinosaur sizes poster and using the measuring tape, measure out the distance of the length of a dinosaur across the floor. Use the masking tape to create a line on the floor that matches the distance of the tape measure. Place the corresponding dinosaur image beside each measuring line and/or write its name on the tape. Choose another dinosaur (space permitting) to measure and repeat these steps.]

6. **"Which dinosaur is longer? Which is shorter?"**
   [Encourage students to identify the longest and shortest dinosaurs.]

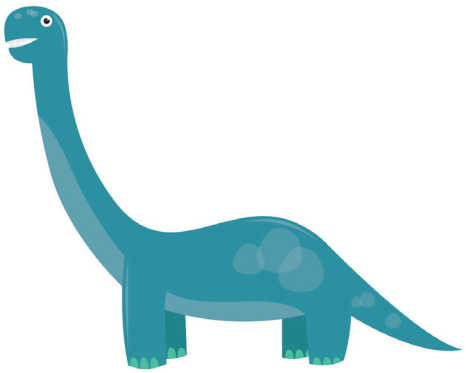
7. **"Now let's see how you compare to the dinosaurs. Let's each take turns lying down beside the tape and see how we measure up."**
   [Choose a student to lie down at the end of a tape line, and mark their name on the tape to indicate their height. Do this until all students have had a chance to be measured.]

8. **"Look how long the dinosaurs were compared to us! Were your predictions correct?"**
   [Prompt students to compare their predictions to the measurements on the floor. Have students take turns identifying whether their predictions were correct.]

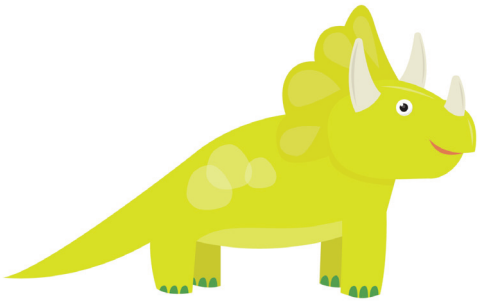
Dinosaur Images

tyrannosaurus-rex

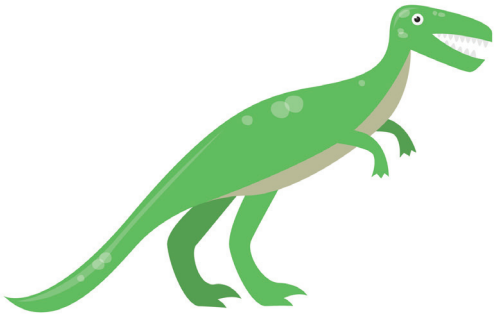
brontosaurus



triceratops



velociraptor



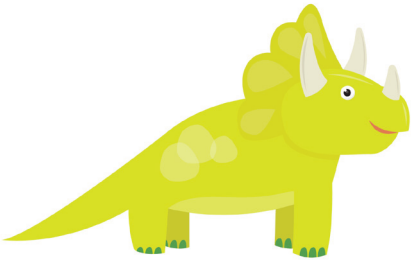
pterodactyl

stegosaurus

Dinosaur Sizes Poster

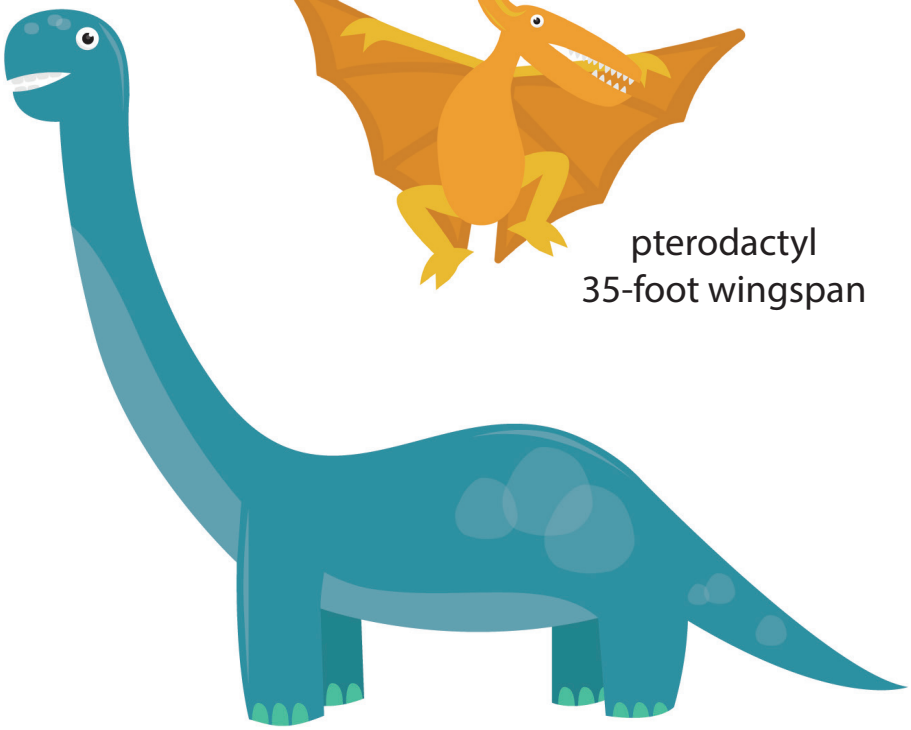
tyrannosaurus-rex
40 feet long

stegosaurus
30 feet long

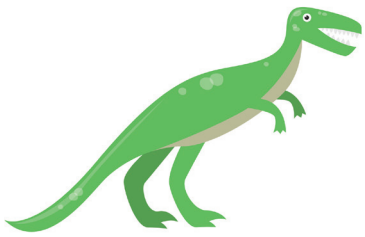


triceratops
30 feet long

pterodactyl
35-foot wingspan



brontosaurus
70 feet long



velociraptor
7 feet long