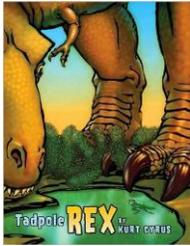




Dinosaurs Read-Aloud Outline

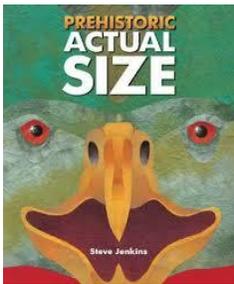
Go wild with dinosaurs at your next Read-Aloud. Kids love these mysterious, fascinating creatures. Choices for great books and activities abound.



Tadpole Rex by Kurt Cyrus

Ages 4 to 8

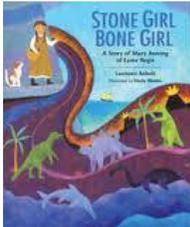
This picture book tells the story of a tadpole with the heart of a dinosaur. Bold pictures and rhyming text make it a great choice for a Read-Aloud. Encourage the kids to act out the story and to search for Rex on each page as he changes from tadpole to frog. Don't forget to read the note on the last page for some interesting prehistoric frog facts.



Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Ages 4 to 10

Jenkins takes exploring dinosaurs to a new level with this engaging picture book. His brief text and striking cut-paper collages depict prehistoric creatures (or parts of the really big ones) in their actual size. Bring tape measures and rulers to this Read-Aloud, and let kids measure out different dinosaurs' actual sizes. Check out the notes at the back for more details.



Stone Girl, Bone Girl: The Story of Mary Anning by Laurence Anholt

Ages 6 to 10

A kid makes one of the most important dinosaur finds ever? Sounds like fiction, but it's not! This picture book tells the story of Mary Anning, a young girl who found an ichthyosaur in the chalky cliffs of England, and her sisters, who supported and encouraged her interest in fossils. It's a great book about fossil hunting and is sure to inspire budding paleontologists.

More dinosaur books

How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen

Ages 3 to 6

Dinosaur Days by Linda Manning

Ages 3 to 6

Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct by Mo Willems

Ages 5 to 8

What Did Dinosaurs Eat? And Other Things You Want to Know About Dinosaurs by Elizabeth MacLeod
Ages 5 to 10

A Dinosaur Named Sue by Fay Robinson
Ages 8 to 12

Dinosaurs A to Z by Don Lessem
Ages 9 to 12

For more dinosaur books and activities, check out Reading Rockets Reading Adventure Pack on Dinosaurs at <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/32782>.

Activities

1. Fossil rubbings. Paleontologists sometimes make rubbings of things they find – like dinosaur bones! Take paper and unwrapped crayons outside, and have the kids make their own rubbings of leaves, coins, flower petals and other things that they find interesting.
2. Fossil hunt (requires a makeshift sandbox). Bury several "fossils" in the sandbox, and give each child a tool such as a spoon, small shovel or paintbrush to dig for dinosaur bones. Fossils can be rocks, cardboard cut in the shape of bones or clay with mysterious markings.
3. Make your own fossils. Let the kids look outside for natural objects or bring in plastic dinosaur toys and boiled chicken bones. Use Crayola Model Magic (available at craft stores) or mix up a batch of 'clay' using used coffee grounds (See this website for instructions: <http://voices.yahoo.com/how-air-dry-clay-coffee-grounds-1358159.html>). Divide the clay among the children, as well as the fossil-like objects. Have the children make impressions of the items in the clay. Remove the object, let the clay dry, and voila! You have a fossil!
4. T. rex tag. One child is designated as the T. rex. He roars and acts ferocious as the other children run from him. When tagged by the T. rex, kids must stand still until they are freed by one of the other kids crawling between their legs. This game can get pretty wild. You'll want to give more than one child a chance to be the T. rex.
5. Dino Chow. Some of the biggest dinosaurs were plant eaters. Talk with the kids about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, and how their teeth and bodies differed. Offer the kids some plants to eat – celery, broccoli, carrots, apple slices, etc. – and talk about how the herbivores found their food.
6. Create your own dinosaur. Provide the kids with pipe cleaners in various colors and let them construct their own dinosaurs. Encourage them to add scales, horns, spikes, wings and tails. What name would they give their dinosaurs?
7. Dino Simon Says. Line up the kids to play Simon Says, using carnivorous dinosaur commands such as, "T. rex says ROAR! T. rex says stomp! T. rex says chomp!" Encourage the kids to suggest their own dinosaur commands. Then, to calm the kids

down, try giving commands from a gentle herbivore. "Triceratops says chew.
Triceratops says snore."

8. Dino Dinner Chant. This can be a great way to get the wiggles out before the group sits down to read. Practice saying the chant together, or do it as a repeat-after-me. Clap hands on thighs to keep a steady beat.

Allosaurus!
Stegosaurus!
Apatosaurus too!
They all went out to dinner
At the dinosaur zoo.
Along came a waiter called
Tyrannosaurus Rex
He gobbled up their table
'Cause they wouldn't pay their checks!
They wouldn't pay their checks!

For a variation, use different dinosaur names or invent motions for the kids to act out.

Conversation Starters

1. What's in a name? Dinosaur names describe body features, behaviors or even the scientists who discovered their fossils. The word "dinosaur" comes from the Greek *deinos* (terrible, powerful) and *sauros* (lizard). Get the kids talking about their favorite dinosaurs and what their names mean. Check out www.DinoDictionary.com for the meanings of names and their pronunciation or look them up in one of the books you brought.
2. What do the kids already know about dinosaurs? What happened to them? Have they seen any dinosaur movies? Has anyone been to the Smithsonian and seen the dinosaur skeletons in the Natural History Museum?
3. Talk about the work of paleontologists. What do they do? How do they look for fossils, and what do they do with them when they're found? To get the discussion going, tell the kids about Mary Anning, an English girl who discovered an Ichthyosaur fossil when she was 12 (see *Stone Girl, Bone Girl* in the book list).