

Activity “Name That Dinosaur”

Introduction

Dinosaurs are usually named after a particular character trait the dinosaur appeared to have based upon its skeleton. They may also be named for the area in which it was first discovered or for a famous paleontologist. The name is then converted into Greek or Latin terminology. Scientists have used these ancient languages to describe animals since the dawn of civilization.

Objective:

Understand the use of scientific naming and how it is applied to dinosaurs

Lesson Time:

30 minutes

Grade Level:

K – 5th

Standards Corrolation:

Reading and Writing – 1 and 4

GUIDE:

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. “Bronto”- thunder | 13. “Stego”- plated |
| 2. “Deino”- terrible | 14. “Dromeo”- fast |
| 3. “Raptor”- thief | 15. “Veloci”- speedy |
| 4. “Tyranno”- tyrant | 16. “Gigano”- giant |
| 5. “Saurus”-lizard | 17. “Seismo”-earthshaking |
| 6. “Ovi”- egg | 18. “Di” -two |
| 7. “Pachy”- thick | 19. “Mono”- one |
| 8. “nano” – dwarf | 20. “Tri”- three/triple |
| 9. “Oritho” - bird | 21. “Lopho”- crest |
| 10. “Cera”- Horn | 22. “Ops” (or tops)- face |
| 11. “Don” or “Dont” – tooth | 23. “Gallio”- chicken |
| 12. “Cephalo”- head | 24. “Rex”- king |

Don’t forget you can also have a dinosaur named for a place such as:

Edmontosaurus (the lizard from Edmonton, Canada), Albertosaurus (the lizard from Alberta, Canada), Or... Bactrosaurus (the lizard from Bactri Mongolia)

Or they can be named after a famous paleontologist such as:

Marshosaurus (O. C. Marshes lizard), Lambeosaus (Lawrence Lambe’s lizard)

Or... Diplodocus carnegii (Double Beamed by Andrew Carnegie)

Please answer the following questions based on the guide above:

1. What does Tyranno- saurus- rex mean in English:
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2. What does Tri- cera-tops mean in English: _____
 3. What would you call a “ two –crested- lizard”?: _____
 4. What does “Bronto- saurus” mean in English: _____
 5. What would you call a “thick-headed-lizard”?: _____
 6. Here’s a funny: What would you call a “three- dwarf- tooth-lizard”?: _____
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Now it’s your turn: On the paper provided come up with a name for one of your fictional dinosaur discoveries based on the above Latin terminology. Then draw and color the animal based on the characteristics inherits in the name.

YOUR NEW DINOSAURS NAME: _____

What the name means in English: _____

Draw the dinosaur below: