



SUPERSTAR

Fossil Folly

Organiser's Card



About the activity

This activity is designed to get children thinking about dinosaurs.

Dina Digg isn't sure how to put together a dinosaur in the right way. Can the children help to work out the best orientation?

Through this activity you will support your group to:

- Investigate the strength and stability of dinosaur shapes
- Think about why dinosaurs come in different shapes and sizes
- Record and present their findings

Kit list

- Soft modelling clay
- Art straws
- Pipe cleaners
- Cocktail or kebab sticks

What to do

1. Introduce the activity using the story of Dina Digg. Ask the children what they know about dinosaurs, what do different dinosaurs look like?
2. Give out activity cards and equipment to the children.
3. Explain that they will be designing and making models of different dinosaur shapes.
4. Support children to design and build their models. Encourage the children to think about size, shape and weight.
5. Support the children to design and carry out tests on their models and to make their own records of their results.
6. Ask the children to present their findings to the rest of the group, they can be as creative in their presentation as they want.



Things to think about

Children will explore the effect of changing the shape and size of body parts i.e. head, neck, legs, body, tail. They may just want to build dinosaurs that they know about.

It is important that they are open-minded and try out different possible combinations of body shapes for strength and stability. This activity is not about classification, although it should help children to make connections between body shape, size, and lifestyles of dinosaurs.



Keywords

- Dinosaurs
- Bones
- Shapes

Watch out!

Remove the pointed ends of wooden sticks.





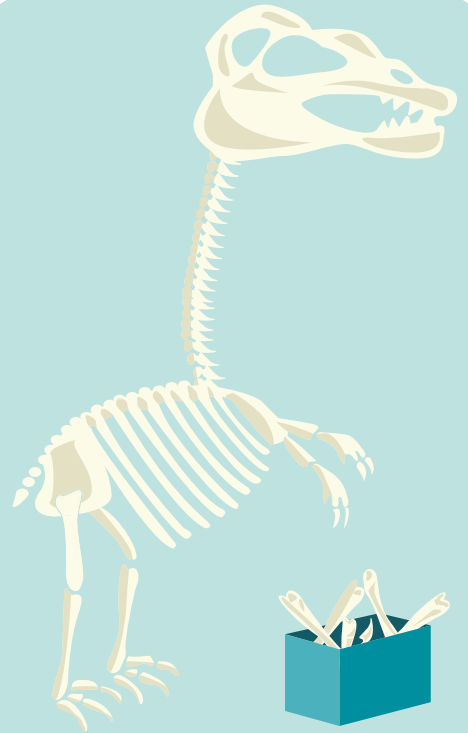
SUPERSTAR

Fossil Folly

Activity Card

A box of bones has been delivered to Dina Digg at the Dinosaur Museum and she has tried to put them together, but she's not sure she's got it right.

No one has ever seen a living, moving dinosaur, but lots of dinosaurs' bones have been found. Putting them together is not always an easy job. There have been plenty of dinosaur debates about the right way to assemble a skeleton.



Your challenge

Can you help Dina Digg to figure out how to put the dinosaur bones together? Is it a new dinosaur, unlike any ever found before? Has she got it wrong?

Discuss

**Do you have a favourite dinosaur? What did they look like?
A few other investigators have had some ideas:**

I like the ostrich dinosaurs like Gallimimus. Their long legs helped them to run very fast.

My favourite is the 26m long, plant-eating Diplodocus. It was built like a suspension bridge - with a very long neck and tail.

Stegosaurus rules! It was a medium sized dinosaur with a solid body and short legs. It had tail spikes and defensive plates on its back.

My vote goes to the agile Velociraptor. A small but deadly carnivore! It ran on two legs and had a long stiff tail that acted as a counterbalance.

Iguanodon's the one for me. It had a small head but a bulky body and a stiff tail. This meant it could stand on its back legs as well as walking on all four feet.

Getting started

Make model dinosaurs to find out which combinations of body shapes are:

- Most stable on two legs
- Most stable on four legs
- Best for reaching high leaves

Which combinations work and which ones do not?

Scientists compare fossil bones with the skeletons of living creatures to work out how to fit them together. Do the shapes that you made remind you of any living or extinct animals?



Test your ideas

Make a table to show which shapes work well together. Can you explain why?

Body shape	Stable on two legs	Stable on four legs	Good for reaching high leaves

Now decide whether the dinosaur put together at the Dinosaur Museum is definitely a dinosaur or a dinosaur disaster!

Share your ideas

You could design a poster for Dina Digg at the Dinosaur Museum. You could include:

- Drawings or photos of your dinosaurs and your ideas about why they were successful or not
- Pictures of different dinosaurs that match the shapes that you have made
- Explanations of why some dinosaur shapes helped them to survive.

