

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
<i>Dinosaurs</i> by Daniel Cohen (Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1986) (Available in Canada from Double Dell Seal; UK, Bantam Doubleday Dell; Australia, Transworld Publisher) Summary — Sample Plan — Overview — Dinosaur Egg-citement — Creature Features — Magnitude Measures — Section by Section — Dino-Dictionary Skills — File Folder Learning Centers — Dinosaur Venn Diagram/Compare and Contrast — Dinosaur Classification — Dinosaur Report — Mass Extinction Mystery/Cause and Effect — Are There Living Dinosaurs?/Fact vs. Opinion	5
<i>Dinotopia</i> by James Gurney (Andrews and McMeel, 1992) (Available in Canada from Douglas Brown Sales) Summary — Sample Plan — Overview — Dolphin Tales — Story Web Notes — Map of Dinotopia — Biological Habitats of Dinotopia — Section by Section — Open Discussion Format: Myths, Legends, Fables, Fairy Tales, and Science Fiction — Vertebrate and Invertebrate Animals — Character Traits — Old Ways of Telling Time — Dinosaur Writing — Animal Time-line — Dinosaur Big Book — Culminating Activity: Sky Galley Replica	30
Across the Curriculum	54
<i>Language Arts:</i> What If . . . ?, Dinosaur Poetry, Dinosaur Wordsearch	
<i>Science:</i> Feathered Reptiles	
<i>Social Studies:</i> Pangaea Pastry	
<i>Art:</i> Paper Plate Dinosaur	
Unit Management	60
Dinosaur Bulletin Board — Using Fingertip Facts — Fingertip Facts	
Answer Key	78
Bibliography	80

Introduction

Dinosaurs contains a captivating whole language, thematic unit. Its 80 pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas and reproducible pages designed for use with intermediate children. At its core are two high quality children's literature selections, *Dinosaurs* (nonfiction) and *Dinotopia* (fiction). For each of these books, activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts gained. In addition, the theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in language arts (including writing suggestions), math, science, social studies, reading, and art. Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning. Suggestions and patterns for bulletin boards and unit management tools are additional time savers for the busy teacher. Furthermore, directions for a student-created Big Book and culminating activities, allowing students to synthesize their knowledge in order to produce products that can be shared beyond the classroom, highlight this very complete teacher resource.

This thematic unit includes:

- literature selections** — summaries of two children's books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that cross the curriculum
- poetry** — suggested selections and lessons enabling students to write and publish their own works
- planning guides** — suggestions for sequencing lessons each day of the unit
- writing ideas** — daily suggestions as well as writing activities across the curriculum, including Big Books
- bulletin board ideas** — suggestions and plans for student-created and/or interactive bulletin boards
- homework suggestions** — extending the unit into the child's home
- curriculum connections** — in language arts, math, science, social studies, and art
- group projects** — to foster cooperative learning
- a culminating activity** — which requires students to synthesize their learning to produce a product or engage in an activity that can be shared with others
- a bibliography** — suggesting additional literature and nonfiction books on the theme

To keep this valuable resource intact, so that it can be used year after year, you may wish to punch holes in the pages and store them in a three ring-binder.

Dinosaurs

by Daniel Cohen

Summary

The non-fiction book *Dinosaurs* begins by introducing the group of reptiles known as dinosaurs. It explains how fossil evidence tells about dinosaurs and other early life forms and gives specific information that will help students identify and classify dinosaurs into groups and subgroups. It discusses the theory of continental drift and relates it to the time period when dinosaurs were the dominant life form. *Dinosaurs* describes the many animals that lived during the same time periods and discusses “theories of extinction” and “living dinosaurs.”

The book is well written and easily understood with vivid illustrations that will peak the curiosity and interest of every student.

The outline below is a suggested plan for using the various activities that are presented in this unit. You should adapt these ideas to fit your own classroom situation.

Sample Plan

Day I

- Introduce the dinosaur bulletin board (page 60), Dinosaur Egg-citement, and related activities (page 8).
- Do Creature Features (page 9) and Magnitude Measures (page 11).
- Make a Dinosaur Folder for Dino-Dictionary Skills (page 16).
- Do Dino-Dictionary Skills (page 16).
- Introduce Dinosaur Poetry (page 55).

Day II

- Introduce the book and read pages 5-11.
- Rotate through File Folder Centers pages 17-24).
- Make Pangaea Pastry (page 58).

Day III

- Read pages 12-15.
- Complete Dinosaur Venn Diagram (page 25).
- Do Dinosaur Classification (page 26).
- Make a Paper Plate Dinosaur (page 59).

Day IV

- Read pages 16-36.
- Research and write Dinosaur Reports (page 27).
- Do Feathered Reptiles (page 57).

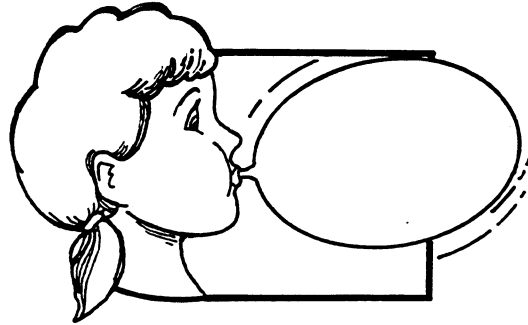
Day V

- Read pages 37-40.
- Do Extinction Mystery (page 28).
- Discuss if there are living dinosaurs (page 29).
- Make Dinosaur Food (page 7).

Dinosaur Egg-citement

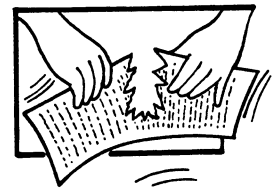
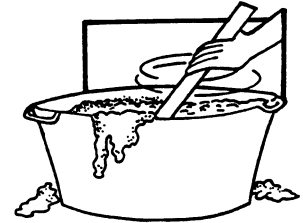
Materials:

one round, medium-sized balloon
several sheets of newspaper
white paper towels
wheat paste (available at wallpaper stores)
warm water
small mixing bowl
wire mixing whisk
straight pin
wrapped candies or treats

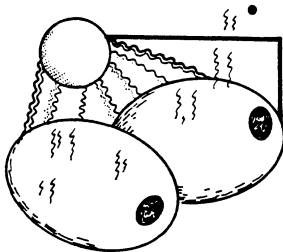
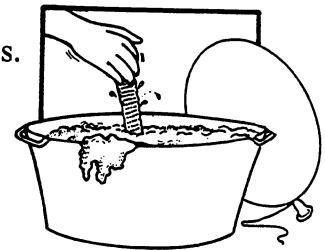


Procedure:

- Fill the uninflated balloon with small wrapped candies or treats.
- Inflate the balloon 8" to 12" (20cm-30cm) in circumference.
- Pour one cup (236 mL) of wheat paste into a small mixing bowl.
- Slowly add warm water while stirring with wire whisk. Mix to the consistency of liquid glue.
- Tear the newspaper into 2" x 6" (5cm x 15cm) strips. Tear several white paper towels in the same size strips.
- Dip a newspaper strip into the paste, keeping it straight. Pull the strip out of the paste through two fingers to remove excess paste.



- Put the strips on the balloon one at a time. Cover the entire balloon with pasted strips.
- Cover the balloon two more times with newspaper strips.
- Cover the newspaper strips on the balloon with white paper towels. The white towels will give the "egg" a white, leathery look.
- Be careful not to get the balloon too wet.



- Let the egg dry completely. This may take two to three days.
- When the egg is completely dry, push the straight pin through the paper and break the balloon.

When Will It Hatch?

Make a nest for the egg from straw and sand. Introduce the unit on dinosaurs and tell the students that the egg will hatch when all of the activities are complete. Break the egg open at the end of the unit and share the candy and treats inside.