



Teaching Learning Succeeding

Subject: Earth Science

Grade Level: High School

DI Strategy: Learning Choices

### Dino Days Learning Choices Lesson

During our studies on the history of the Earth we spent some time studying dinosaurs. We focused on when they lived, where they lived, and how they lived. During this particular lesson, students were given a number of choices of activities that they could complete to learn about the Mesozoic Era and the dinosaurs that lived during that time period. Students were allowed to choose which activities they wanted to complete, but the total point value needed to add up to 30 points. There were two 15 points options, a 10 point option, and three 5 point options.

To ensure that students were working at the appropriate level of difficulty, I had students complete a formative assessment on their current understanding of dinosaurs. Students who scored well on the formative assessment were advised to complete the following activities: How Big, Jurassic Park, and Dino Look Alike. Students who knew less about dinosaurs were advised to complete the following activities: Snapchat, End of Dinos, Acrostic, and Dino Look Alike.

The student instructions and activities can be found on the pages that follow.



# Dino Days

## Directions:

- During the next few days, you will be exploring the Mesozoic Era - and learning about its most famous residents - the dinosaurs!
- You will be completing several activities to learn all about them.
- Choose any combination of activities (from the list below). You must complete enough activities and in the right combination to **reach 30 points total**.
- On the back please include a list of all the websites you used to complete your research for the activities below.

1) Dino Snapchat: **15 points**

You will create 6 snaps that a dinosaur might make throughout the day. Pick one specific dinosaur, and create 6 snaps that show what they ate, when they lived, where they lived, where they were found (the fossils), what made them unique, and one last snap of your choice.

2) Dino Look-Alike: **5 points**

If \_\_\_\_\_ were a dinosaur they would be \_\_\_\_\_ because...

In this activity, you will choose a famous person and a dinosaur to complete the statement above. You will find pictures of both of them, and then tell us why you chose this person and this dinosaur - how are they alike? Your explanation needs to include **3 reasons**, why they are alike, and be in paragraph format.

3) How Big were the Dinosaurs, Really?: **15 points**

Research a dinosaur's size, measure, and mark on a long strip of paper the size of your dinosaur. Then, add your own size for comparison!

- a) Sign up for a dinosaur - no duplicates! Use the length (head to tail) or height (head to toes), whichever is longer. (If you choose a **very big** dinosaur, do this one with a partner!)
- b) Measure out the size of your dinosaur, and yourself.
- c) Draw both on the same piece of paper.

4) Dinosaur Acrostic: **5 points**

In this one, you will brainstorm/write things that are known about a *specific dinosaur*, one starting with each letter of the word "dinosaur".

5) End of the Dinos (& other Mass Extinctions): **5 points**

You will watch a video in EdPuzzle, and answer a few questions as you watch.



6) Jurassic Park?: **10 points**

Did you see the movie Jurassic Park? Ever wonder what's fact and what's fiction? In this activity you will be exploring that question. You'll be researching which dinosaurs (seen in the movie) actually lived during the Jurassic, and then exploring some other fact or fiction questions of your choosing.

**Bibliography:**

Please list the websites used to complete your dino research in the space provided below

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End of the Dinos & Mass Extinction Video:

<https://edpuzzle.com/media/573616dfc4987e414121461a>

Search for : "When will the next mass extinction occur? - Borths, D'Emic, and Pritchard" in Edpuzzle

Dino Snapchat Template and Example: see accompanying Slides



## Dino Look-Alike

Directions: Copy and paste both pictures into the table on the next page.

1. Find 3 ways your dinosaur and person are alike. You will need to research the things your dinosaur is known for, and think about what your person is famous for too. (Keep the similarities NICE - no trashing people or dinos!)
  2. Write a 5 sentence paragraph explaining your dinosaur look-alike, under your pictures on the next page.
    - a. Include a topic sentence and conclusion. Your 3 supporting details are the 3 ways your dino and person are alike.
  3. Turn in your doc through Google Classroom.
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Example: If **Drake** were a dinosaur, he would be a **Megalosaurus**. (You can't use this person for your look-alike!)



Drake



Megalosaurus

Similarity #1: Megalosaurus has powerful jaws to hunt down prey. Drake uses his powerful jaws to rap sweet rhymes. (You need 3 similarities in total.)

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1. Choose a type of dinosaur and find a picture of it.
2. Choose a well-known actor, musician, celebrity, etc. that looks similar to your dinosaur.  
Find a picture of that person. (It MUST NOT be a person in this school!)

If \_\_\_\_\_ were a dinosaur, they would be a \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Person's Picture</b>	<b>Dinosaur's Picture</b>
<i>(paste picture here)</i>	<i>(paste picture here)</i>

Similarity #1:

Similarity #2:

Similarity #3:

Dino Look-Alike Paragraph:



## How big were the dinosaurs

We typically see the huge dinosaurs on TV and in the movies, but just how big were they really? In this investigation you will be charged with the task of uncovering the answer to this question. Read the directions below carefully to complete this task.

### Procedures:

- 1) Select a dinosaur (one that you haven't researched in another activity) and sign up for it on the list up front. If your dinosaur was already taken you will need to sign up for a different one. No repeats.
  - a) If it's a big dinosaur, complete this activity with a partner, if it's a smaller dinosaur you should complete this by yourself.
- 2) Research - Using your laptop, find out how big your dinosaur was. You want to figure out the longest part of the dinosaur, some dinosaurs are longer than they are tall. Record your findings in the box below **in meters**.

- 3) Make a visual representation of your dinosaur. Use the paper rolls and measure out a length of paper equal to the exact size of your dinosaur. Once you have measure it out include the following on the paper as well:
  - a) Dinosaur name
  - b) Height - include whether this is the average height, the maximum height, and/or if it is the height of a male/female
  - c) When it lived
  - d) Picture of the dino (optional)
- 4) How tall are you compared to your dinosaur? On the paper measure out and mark your own height. Make sure you include what your height is as well.
- 5) Once completed, give it to your teacher so they can hang it up. Make sure your name is on it.



## Dino Acrostic

**Directions:** Choose a *specific dinosaur* and write 8 facts about your dinosaur. Each fact should start with the letters below, spelling out the word “dinosaur”.

Dinosaur Name:

<b>D</b>	
<b>I</b>	
<b>N</b>	
<b>O</b>	
<b>S</b>	
<b>A</b>	
<b>U</b>	
<b>R</b>	



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## Dinosaur EDpuzzle video

End of the Dinos and Mass Extinction Video:

<https://edpuzzle.com/media/573616dfc4987e414121461a>

Search for: “When will the next mass extinction occur? - Borths, D’Emic, and Pritchard” in Edpuzzle



## Jurassic Park ... ? Fact and *Fiction*

### Introduction:

Jurassic Park: a wildly popular book and movie from the 1990s. There have been countless spin-offs: sequels, video games, toys, etc. But have you ever stopped to wonder just how true it could be?

### Part 1: The right dinosaurs?

Start with the list of dinosaurs below. These are all dinosaurs that appear in the movie “Jurassic Park”. But did they actually live in the Jurassic time period? All dinosaurs lived in the Phanerozoic Eon, Mesozoic Era. But only some lived in the Jurassic Period; others lived in the Triassic (*before*) or the Cretaceous (*after*).

### Directions:

1. Research each of the dinosaurs in the table - when did they actually live?

<b>Name of Dinosaur</b>	<b>When did it live?</b> (Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous)
Tyrannosaurus Rex	
Velociraptor	
Triceratops	
Stegosaurus	
Parasaurolophus	
Gallimimus	
Brachiosaurus	
Dilophosaurus	
Metriacanthosaurus	
Proceratosaurus	
Segisaurus	
Herrerasaurus	
Baryonyx	



2. Of the list of dinosaurs, how many were actually alive in the Jurassic? \_\_\_\_\_

3. If you could, would you rename the movie?

- a. Yes, I would rename it

because...

- b. No, I think Jurassic Park a good name because....

## Part 2: Other Facts/Fictions

If you're anything like a lot of the fans of Jurassic Park, you're probably wondering about the facts and fictions in the movie. What parts of the dinosaur world were depicted as they probably were, and what things were added (or left out) to make the movie more "movie"?

### Directions:

Choose three of the questions below, and research the answers. Choose any three that are most interesting to you, and use online resources to find the answers. For each answer that you give, please provide your source - where you found your information (just copy and paste the website at the end of your answer). Make sure you are not copying the website word for word (unless you quote and cite it properly).

1. Were the velociraptors in the movie depicted accurately? Explain your answer.

Answer:

2. Could DNA really be extracted from an organism preserved in amber? Could dinosaur DNA survive in the amber this long, and still be usable today? Explain.

Answer:

3. Could you really escape Tyrannosaurus Rex by standing still? Explain your answer.

Answer:



4. Was brachiosaurus depicted accurately? Explain your answer.

Answer:

5. Was dilophosaurus depicted accurately? Explain your answer.

Answer:

6. In the movie, dinosaurs are depicted as very reptilian and scaly. Is that fact or fiction? Explain.

Answer: