

INTERVIEW WITH A DINOSAUR

Grade Level: 1-2

Objectives:

Students will:

- use the online interactive map of Marsh/Felch Quarry
- Research dinosaur natural history and answer interview questions
- Conduct a dinosaur "interview" with a partner

Colorado Standards Met:

Math 5

Science 1, 2, 3.1, 4.1, 5

Reading/Writing 1, 2, 4, 5

Time Required:

2 or 3 class periods

Materials and Equipment:

- Internet access to www.handsontheland.org/felch/map.htm
- Pictures of dinosaurs of different species for comparison. Many good pictures are available online.
- Pencils and paper or computer and word processing program.
- Interview forms included with this activity
- Species name worksheet included with this activity

Other Resources:

For more information about paleontology in the Garden Park area:

www.dinosaurdepot.com

For more about the Greek and Latin roots of words:
www.wordinfo.info/words/

Background

The Marsh-Felch Quarry #1 is located at the Garden Park Fossil Area north of Cañon City, Colorado. During the late 1800s, this area was the site of numerous fossil excavations.

Many of the fossils found at the Marsh-Felch Quarry were of dinosaurs. What is a fossil? What is a dinosaur? What were the dinosaurs like and how do you think their fossils ended up at Garden Park?

Procedure

1. Use the interactive map of the Marsh-Felch Quarry to determine which types of dinosaur fossils were excavated here. This can be done with the group, or the teacher can list the different types of dinosaurs:

Allosaurus
Apatasaurus
Brachiosaurus
Ceratosaurus
Diplodocus
Haplocanthosaurus
Stegosaurus (two species)

(Other specimens were found as well, but not all are included on the map.)

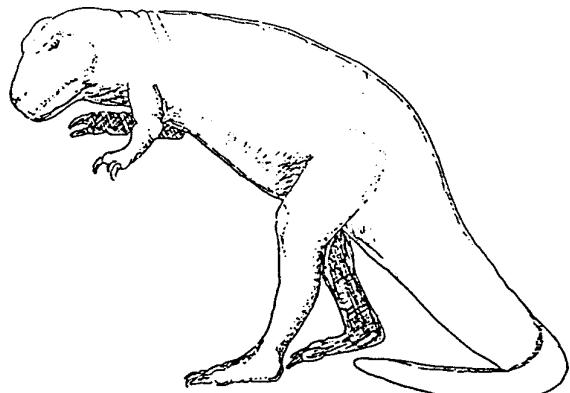
Use the species name handout to talk about where dinosaur names come from and what they mean.

2. Show dinosaur pictures to the class and talk about the ways they are similar to or different from each other.

Sort the pictures different ways: animals that walked on four legs, animals that walked on two legs, animals with horns or without horns, with claws or without claws, etc. Students can look in other books and resources for pictures of dinosaurs to add to the discussion/classification.

3. Discuss the difference between an herbivore, a carnivore, and an omnivore. Remember that the plants and animals dinosaurs ate were NOT the same as plants and animals today! Find pictures of prehistoric plants for comparison. (An interesting article can be found at <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/ww0803.htm>.)

4. Students in pairs choose a dinosaur species found at Garden Park to "interview." They work together to answer the questions on the form, then choose one student to be the dinosaur and the other to be the interviewer. Act out the interview, pretend you're on TV! Students can also write up the interview for a classroom newspaper.



Interview with a Dinosaur

What is your name? _____

What species of dinosaur are you? _____

What does your species name mean? _____

(Use the Naming Dinosaurs page to find this answer.)

What were you like when you were alive? _____

What did you eat? (Were you a carnivore or an herbivore?) _____

How big were you? _____

How fast were you? _____

How did you get to Garden Park? _____

How did you become a fossil? _____

When was your fossil discovered at Garden Park?* _____

Where is your fossil now?* _____

Do you have any other secrets you would like to share with the audience? _____

(*These answers can be found on the online Quarry map.)

Naming Dinosaurs

Dinosaur names are often made up of combinations of Greek and Latin words that describe how the animal might have looked or behaved. Other names describe where the fossil remains were discovered or the name of the paleontologist who made the discovery. The word *dinosaur* is from the Greek *deinos* (terrible) and *sauros* (lizard).

Look at pictures of dinosaurs and think about the name of each one. Use the chart below to learn what each name means.

For example *triceratops* = tri + cerat + ops, three + horned + face.

<u>Word part</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
allo	strange
apato	deceptive
bronto	thunder
cantho	spined (also corner of the eye)
cerat	horned
comps	pretty
deinos or dino	terrible
diplo	double
echino	spiked
elasma	plated
haplo	single
mega	huge
micro	small
nodo	lumpy
ops	face
ornitho	bird
dokos, docus	beam
raptor	robber
rex	king
saur, saurus	lizard
stego	roof
tri	three
tyranno	tyrant

Imagine your own dinosaur and make up a name for it. What might a *megaelasmosaurus* look like?