# **Dinosaur Discovery**

Recommended year group: Year 1

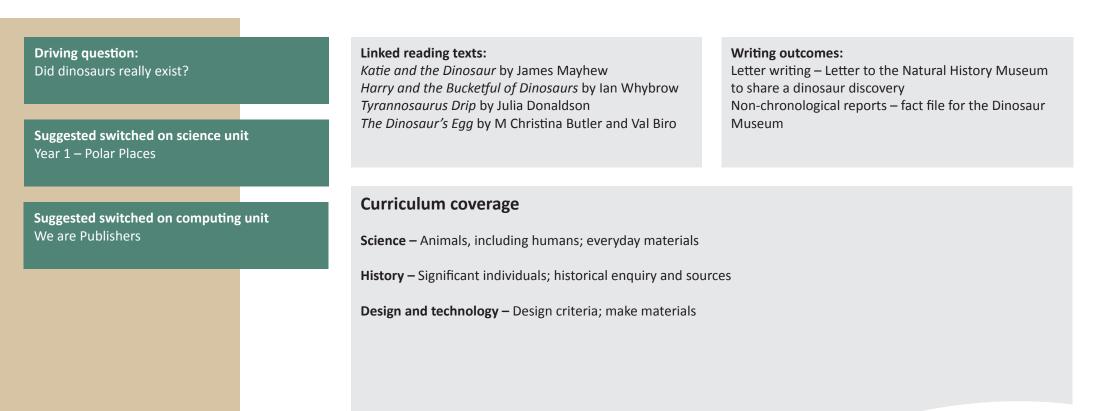
Theme focus: Science

Suggested term: Autumn



### **Theme introduction:**

Dinosaur Discovery is focused on learning about dinosaurs and the different prehistoric eras (Jurassic, Triassic and Cretaceous). Pupils will develop their knowledge about dinosaurs including their diet, habitat and physical appearance. They will sort and name dinosaurs that were herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. They will also learn about palaeontologists and fossil hunters such as Mary Anning who have helped scientists to develop our knowledge of dinosaurs. Pupils will share their expert knowledge by curating and presenting at the 'Dinosaur Museum'.





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## Excite:

Set up evidence of an overnight visit from a mysterious creature to 'appear' in the classroom the next morning. The evidence could include large footprints and other dinosaur artefacts such as teeth, bones, eggs, claws and fossils.

Who could have left these clues? Look at all the clues that show us it might have been a dinosaur (e.g. eggs, claws).

#### Theme essential vocabulary:

Adaptation, armour, bones, brontosaurus, camouflage, carnivore, classification, Cretaceous, design, diet, dinosaur, egg, evolve, exhibit, exist, expert, extinct, forest, fossil, function, habitat, herbivore, Jurassic, knee, landscape, leg, materials, mass extinction, meteorite, omnivore, palaeontologist, period, prehistoric, presentation, protect, reptile, ribs, sediment, skeleton, skull, spine, survive, teeth, timeline, Triassic, triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex.



### **Explore:**

- Explore 1 What is a dinosaur?
- Explore 2 Dinosaur detectives
- Explore 3 Dinosaur experts
- Explore 4 Fascinating fossils
- Explore 5 Dinosaur skeletons
- Explore 6 Dinosaur diets
- Explore 7 Could Diplodocus have been hunted by T-Rex?
- Explore 8 Dinosaur habitats Explore 9 – Dinosaur designs Explore 10 – Dinosaur survival Explore 11 – Dinosaur eggs Explore 12 – Dinosaur extinction Explore 13 – Dinosaur museum

#### Theme essential knowledge/concepts

- 1. Know a range of dinosaurs with different characteristics from different periods.
- 2. Classification is sorting of species into groups based on common characteristics.
- 3. Know the habitats and diets of different dinosaurs.
- 4. Fossilisation is when remains are covered in layers of rock which harden, preserving a rock replica of the creature inside.
- 5. A palaeontologist is a scientist specialising in the study of fossilised plants and animals.
- 6. Understand how palaeontologists find evidence of prehistoric creatures through studying fossils and other techniques.
- 7. The significance of Mary Anning's work by discovering the first plesiosaur and ichthyosaur fossils.
- 8. The three periods in which dinosaurs lived: Jurassic, Triassic and Cretaceous.
- 9. Explain five simple theories about how dinosaurs became extinct.
- 10. The characteristics of reptiles

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## Excel:

Key assessment outcomes:

- sort and classify dinosaurs as carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores; fact cards about dinosaurs and their diets
- dinosaur fact files
- create a dinosaur habitat to meet a design criteria
- illustrations and simple explanations of the theories of dinosaur extinction

## Exhibit:

- Create an interactive dinosaur museum for parents/other classes to visit.
- Exhibits could include dinosaur fact files, dinosaur eggs, fossils, pupils' home learning projects, dinosaur paintings, palaeontology.

## Possible wider experiences:

- Visit a local museum or attraction with a dinosaur themed experience (e.g. West Midlands Safari Park Dinosaur World).
- 2. Invite an animal expert to bring some common reptiles such as snakes or lizards into school.
- 3. Find out about how they care for the creatures and how they move, eat, and behave.

### Flipped learning opportunities:

- 1. Pupils can research herbivore, carnivore and omnivores.
- 2. Pupils can classify known animals into mammals, birds, reptiles.

#### Family learning opportunity:

Create a 3D model dinosaur. Research your favourite dinosaur. Make a 3D model of the dinosaur using materials of your choice. Record some fascinating facts about your chosen dinosaur in your role as a dinosaur expert.

### Cultural awareness

**Key piece of music** Jurassic Park Theme – John Williams **Key piece of art** Dinosaur Art – Alain Beneteau

**Key poem** 'The Dinosaur's Dinner' – June Crebbin 'Maggie and the Dinosaur' – Dave Ward