

Prehistoric Puppets

Styracosaurus', Pterosaurs, Velociraptors and more! How many dinosaurs do you know? Create unique puppet heads to explore the different physical characteristics dinosaurs developed to adapt to the environment they lived in.

TEKS:

3.10A Explore how structures and functions of plants and animals allow them to survive in a particular environment.

4.10A Explore how adaptations enable organisms to survive in their environment, such as comparing birds' beaks and leaves on plants.

5.10A(rs) Compare the structures and functions of different species that help them live and survive, such as hooves on prairie animals or webbed feet in aquatic animals.

Materials:

- Dinosaur head templates (can be printed out at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/puppets/home.html>)
- Cardstock or colored construction paper for body
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brass fasteners
- Markers or crayons (optional)

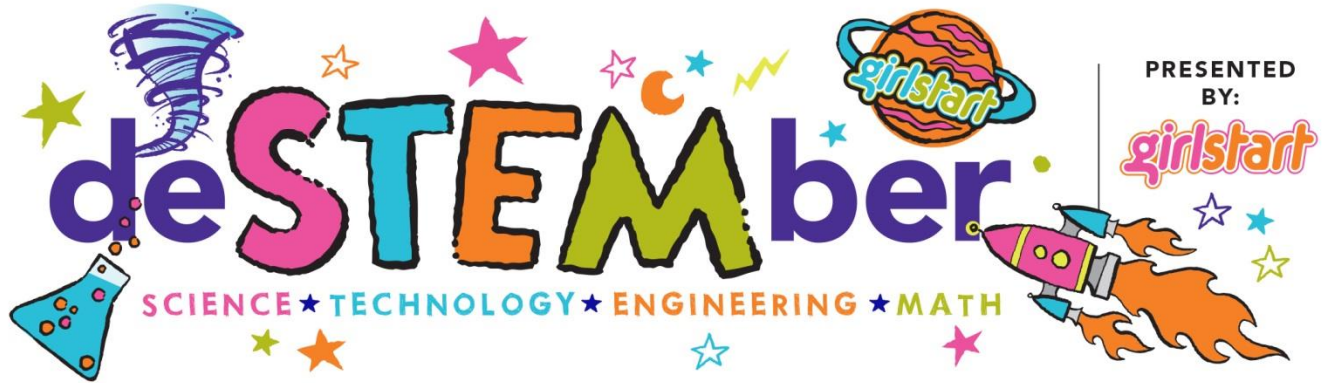
How To:

1. Visit the British Geological Society's website for templates of three different dinosaurs: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/puppets/home.html>
2. Print the templates and cut out the different dinosaurs, according to the given directions.
3. Use construction paper to create the dinosaurs' bodies.
4. Play with the dinosaurs and observe what features the dinosaurs have in common and what features are different.
5. Use the Dinosaur Facts on the next page to learn why each dinosaur has its specific physical characteristics.

31 Days of STEM FUN!

www.destember.org | [#deSTEMber](https://twitter.com/deSTEMber) | © 2014 by Girlstart www.girlstart.org

DeSTEMber is a trademark of Girlstart



How Does It Work?

By creating dinosaur puppets, you are learning how different dinosaurs looked. Reading more about these creatures also helps you understand that they lived in different periods of time and why they needed to evolve differently from one another.

Dinosaur Facts!

There are three main geologic periods that dinosaurs lived in. All of these periods were part of the **Mesozoic Era**:

- Dinosaurs and mammals started to evolve during the **Triassic Period** (250 to 200 million years ago). These creatures were often small in stature. *Pterosaurs* started flying and early *crocodiles* began to evolve.
- Dinosaurs continued to evolve and started to get large during the **Jurassic Period** (200 to 145 million years ago). Well-known dinosaurs such as *Allosaurus*, *Apatosaurus*, *Ankylosaurus* and *Stegosaurus* roamed the earth.
- The longest and last period of time that dinosaurs roamed the earth was during the **Cretaceous Period** (145 to 66 million years ago). Some of the most recognizable dinosaurs to us appeared in this period. *Triceratops*, *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, *Iguanodon*, *Velociraptors* and *Spinosaurus* were common.

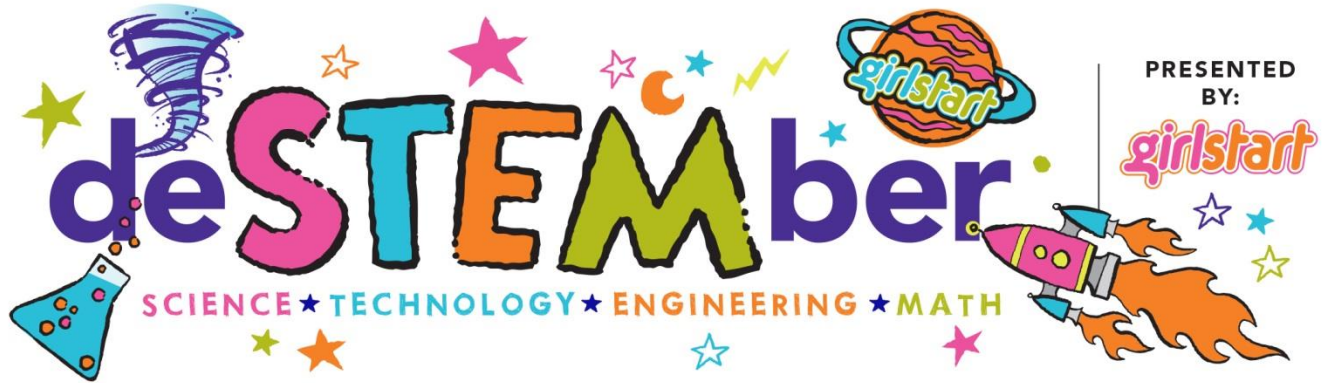
Dinosaur Types:

- **Styracosaurus**: These dinosaurs inhabited what is now North America. They lived 75 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Even though they had large spikes on their heads, styracosaurus' ate plants. They weighed nearly 3 tons and often lived in herds.
- **Pterosaur**: Pterosaurs were a class of flying reptiles that existed from the Triassic through the Cretaceous period. Pterosaurs ranged in size from the size of a modern small bird to a 30-foot long flying reptile. They mainly ate fish and smaller lizards.
- **Tyrannosaurus Rex**: These large carnivores lived for 2 million years during the Cretaceous period in what is now North America. They were over 42 feet long with teeth nearly 11 inches long. Their powerful legs helped them hunt by outrunning their prey.

31 Days of STEM FUN!

www.destember.org | [#deSTEMber](https://twitter.com/deSTEMber) | © 2014 by Girlstart www.girlstart.org

DeSTEMber is a trademark of Girlstart



Career Connection:

Paleontologists study prehistoric life. They study fossils of extinct creatures such as dinosaurs, prehistoric plants, and small creatures like mollusks. They use fossils to understand the evolution of different creatures in relation to their environment. Paleontologists need a wide range of knowledge from various fields, including biology, geology, ecology, and chemistry.

Resource:

- <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/puppets/home.html>

31 Days of STEM FUN!

www.destember.org | [#deSTEMber](https://twitter.com/deSTEMber) | © 2014 by Girlstart www.girlstart.org

DeSTEMber is a trademark of Girlstart