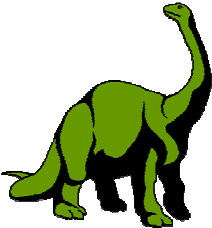


**Overview of Topic Template
(Primary Schools)**

<p>Topic Title: Dinosaurs</p>	<p>Levels: 1st/early 2nd</p>	<p>Stages: P4/5</p>
<p>Outcome focus: Sciences> Planet Earth</p>	<p>Strand focus: Biodiversity and Interdependence, People, past events and societies, People place and environment.</p>	<p>Length of topic: 10-12 weeks</p>
<p>Learning outcomes Pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sort living things, past and present into groups and explain decisions. Relate physical and behavioural characteristics to survival and extinction in animals e.g. dinosaurs. Describe characteristics features + common types of dinosaurs. Explore places + artefacts, locating them in time e.g. fossils. Select and use a variety of evidence to learn about the past e.g. books, pictures, internet etc. Describe the process of the natural disasters that lead to the extinction of the dinosaurs. Describe the landscape during + after the age of the dinosaurs. Describe how climate can affect living things 	<p>Learning Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place era of dinosaurs on a timeline along with other familiar historical periods e.g. modern day, Egyptians, birth of Jesus etc. Dinosaur Times– place types of dinosaurs on a timeline, measured in cm + mm with each mm representing 1 million years. Research Pangaea and the world at the time of the dinosaurs. Categorise mammals, reptiles etc and establish dinosaurs as reptiles that only live on land. Discuss and identify main features of dinosaurs e.g. reptiles, legs straight down, skin etc. Discuss types of dinosaurs i.e. carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and sort pictures/ names of dinosaurs into these groups. Discuss importance of categorising animals into groups for ease of studying. “Dig up” bones from sand and assemble dinosaur skeletons. Make fossils with plaster of Paris. Use dinosaur bone pictures and compare sizes with other animal bones. Measure school hall/playground to compare sizes with that of dinosaurs. Interpret dinosaur tracks + strides and make connections with speed. Grinding food experiment– stones, lettuce and plastic jar to understand dinosaurs’ digestion. Make model dinosaur head which uses air to produce movement and electricity to produce sound. Attacking dinosaur herd game– to understand how dinosaurs became adapted to attack. 	<p>Topic Development Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does living/non living mean? What does extinction mean? What groups can we sort animals into? What are the differences between dinosaurs and other reptiles? What was the world like when dinosaurs walked the earth? What were some of the other animals that lived at this time? What are some of the features + characteristics of dinosaurs? What are some common types? What are the differences between herbivores, omnivores and carnivores? What were some of the theories for the dinosaurs extinction? What are some of the different types of fossil and what can we learn from them? How does the study of dinosaurs help us to appreciate and look after our planet? 

Learning Resources	Learning Activities	Assessment Opportunities
<p> Www.primaryscience.com Natural History Museum Prim-Ed Hot topics: Dinosaurs Enchanted Learning LT Scotland clip art and other images A World of Display– Belair Zoom Dinosaur Directory Videos/DVD: “The Land Before Time” & suitable excerpts from “Jurassic Park” e.g. park tour scenes, first dinosaur sighting scenes. Dinosaur topic planners– C. Burrows & J. Irving. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinosaur clubs– class investigation on size of club and how it affects the size of push. • Create dinosaur aggression masks to explain theories of colour. • Volcanoes + space rock class demonstrations to explore theories of dinosaur extinction due to scattering rock. • Use reference material to create an individual report/project on a dinosaur or group of dinosaurs. • Visit a dinosaur exhibition e.g. Dynamic Earth, Chambers Street museum in Edinburgh etc. 	<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify living and non-living things and sort into further categories. • Can use a timeline to find the era of dinosaurs and describe in the length of time in relation to modern day. • Can identify characteristic features of dinosaurs and compare with other animals • Identify some common dinosaurs from pictures and given information. • Can describe in simple terms how dinosaurs can become adapted to attack. • Can give 1 or 2 reasons for the extinction of dinosaurs. • Can describe 1 or 2 fossil types and how they were made. • Can create a report on a dinosaur of their choice– habitat, size, appearance, diet etc. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict, measure, record and report findings from experiments. <hr/> <p>Evaluation and Next Steps</p>