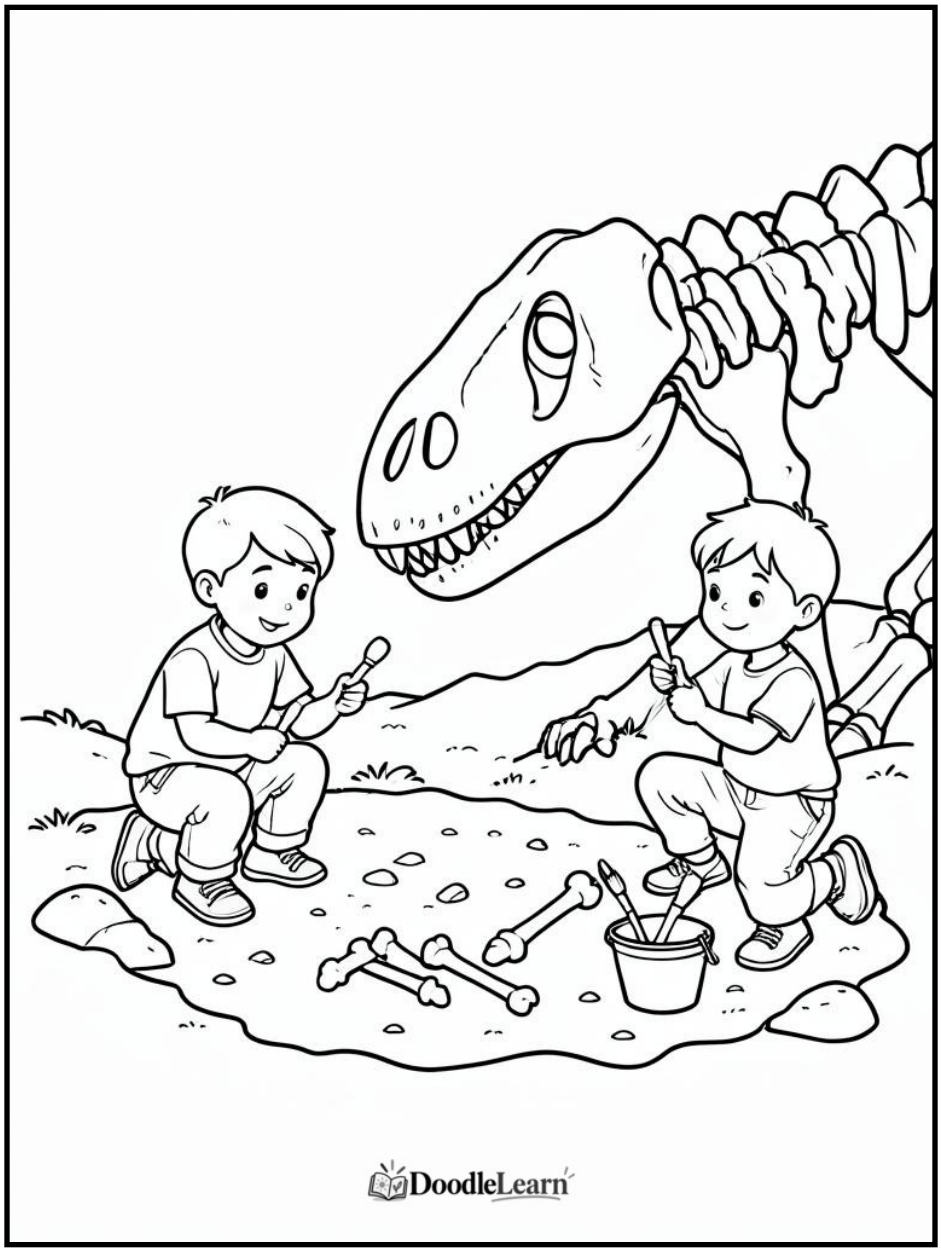
Dinosaurs & Fossils

Learning Pack · Color It. Learn It. Explore It.

Ages 6–10 · Grades 1–4 (approximate) · Life Science / Paleontology · 30–75 minutes

Name: _____



Inside: facts · vocabulary · label a Triceratops · diets · fossil detective · quiz · answer key · notes

What you will learn

Learning objectives

- ☐ Explain that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago.
- ☐ Sort dinosaurs by what they ate: plants or other animals.
- ☐ Describe how fossils help scientists learn about ancient life.
- ☐ Label the main body parts of a Triceratops.
- ☐ Explain why birds are called living dinosaurs.

Five dinosaur facts

Fact 1: Millions of years ago

Dinosaurs first appeared about 230 million years ago and lived on Earth for more than 160 million years — long before any people.

Fact 2: Different foods

Some dinosaurs, like Triceratops, ate plants. Others, like Tyrannosaurus rex, hunted other animals. A few may have eaten both.

Fact 3: Clues in rock

Fossils are the remains or traces of living things, kept in rock. Bones, teeth, footprints and eggs all help scientists learn about ancient life.

Fact 4: Extinction

About 66 million years ago, a huge asteroid hit Earth. Afterwards, the non-avian dinosaurs (all dinosaurs except birds) became extinct. One branch of dinosaurs — the birds — survived.

Fact 5: Birds are dinosaurs

Birds are living dinosaurs. They descend from theropods — the group of mostly meat-eating dinosaurs that walked on two legs, like T. rex and Velociraptor.

Sources (checked October 2026)

Facts 1, 4, 5: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, naturalhistory.si.edu/education/teaching-resources/paleontology
Facts 2–3: Natural History Museum London, nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory.html
Facts 4–5: Natural History Museum London, nhm.ac.uk/discover/why-are-birds-the-only-surviving-dinosaurs.html

Dinosaur vocabulary

Dinosaur	A kind of reptile that lived millions of years ago. Birds are dinosaurs that are still alive today.
Fossil	The remains or trace of a plant or animal from long ago, kept in rock.
Paleontologist	A scientist who studies fossils to learn about ancient life.
Herbivore	An animal that eats only plants.
Carnivore	An animal that eats other animals.
Omnivore	An animal that eats both plants and animals.
Extinction	When a kind of living thing dies out and there are none left.
Prehistoric	From the time long ago, before people wrote things down.
Skeleton	All the bones in an animal's body, joined together.

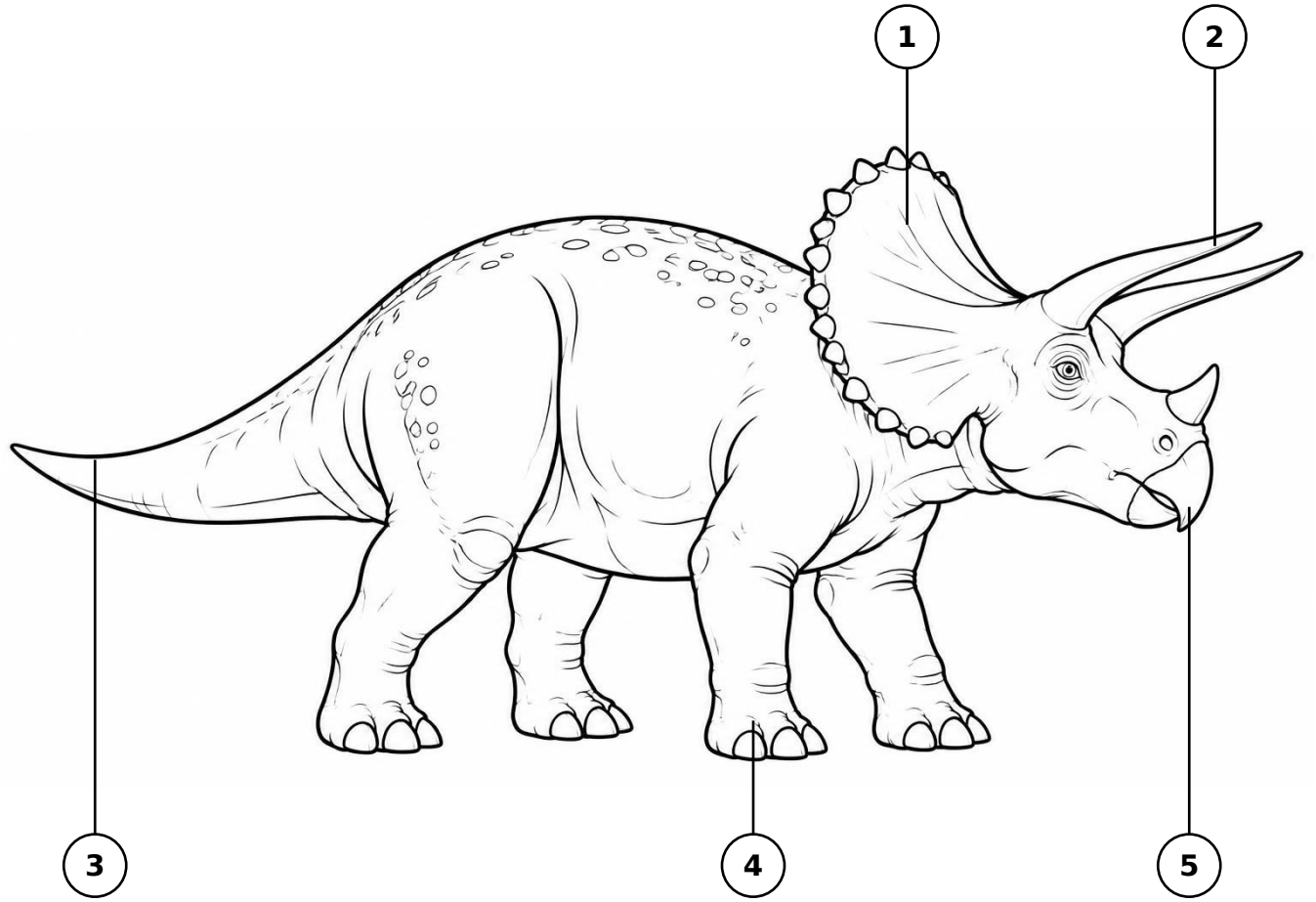
Your turn: write a sentence using one of the new words.

Label a Triceratops

Name: _____ Date: _____

Triceratops was a plant-eating dinosaur with three horns. Write each word from the word bank on the line with the matching number.

horns · frill · beak · legs · tail



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Dinosaur science activities

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activity A: What did they eat?

Draw a line from each dinosaur to the food it ate.

Triceratops	○	○ other animals (carnivore)
Tyrannosaurus rex	○	○ probably lots of fish, and maybe other animals (carnivore)
Brachiosaurus	○	○ low-growing plants, snipped with its beak (herbivore)
Spinosaurus	○	○ leaves high up in tall trees (herbivore)

Activity B: Fossil detective

Draw a line from each fossil clue to what it tells scientists.

Footprints	○	○ the dinosaur ate plants
Sharp, pointed teeth	○	○ clues about how a dinosaur walked and moved
Flat, grinding teeth	○	○ how dinosaurs had babies
Fossil eggs and nests	○	○ the dinosaur ate meat

Draw a fossil a paleontologist might dig up:

Dinosaur quiz

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Dinosaurs lived...

- ◯ a) about 100 years ago
- ◯ b) millions of years ago
- ◯ c) only in stories

2. What is a fossil?

- ◯ a) The remains or trace of a living thing from long ago, kept in rock
- ◯ b) A kind of dinosaur
- ◯ c) A shiny crystal

3. A scientist who studies fossils is called a...

- ◯ a) paleontologist
- ◯ b) astronaut
- ◯ c) volcanologist

4. An animal that eats only plants is a...

- ◯ a) carnivore
- ◯ b) herbivore
- ◯ c) predator

5. Which animals alive today are dinosaurs?

- ◯ a) Lizards
- ◯ b) Birds
- ◯ c) Crocodiles

Bonus: If you were a paleontologist, what fossil would you most like to find, and what could it teach you?

Answer key

Label a Triceratops

1. frill
2. horns
3. tail
4. legs
5. beak

Activity A: What did they eat?

Triceratops → low-growing plants, snipped with its beak (herbivore)
Tyrannosaurus rex → other animals (carnivore)
Brachiosaurus → leaves high up in tall trees (herbivore)
Spinosaurus → probably lots of fish, and maybe other animals (carnivore)

Activity B: Fossil detective

Footprints → clues about how a dinosaur walked and moved
Sharp, pointed teeth → the dinosaur ate meat
Flat, grinding teeth → the dinosaur ate plants
Fossil eggs and nests → how dinosaurs had babies

Dinosaur quiz

1. b) millions of years ago
2. a) The remains or trace of a living thing from long ago, kept in rock
3. a) paleontologist
4. b) herbivore
5. b) Birds

Bonus (sample answer): Any fossil is fine with a matching reason — for example, teeth to learn what a dinosaur ate, or footprints for clues about how it walked.

Teacher and parent notes

Who it is for

Ages 6–10 (about grades 1–4). Younger children can do the coloring and vocabulary pages with help reading.

Time

30–75 minutes, depending on the activities selected. Use two or three pages for a short lesson, or the full pack across two lessons.

Suggested order

1) Read the facts aloud (10 min). 2) Vocabulary (10 min). 3) Label a Triceratops (10 min). 4) Diet and fossil matching (15 min). 5) Quiz (10 min). 6) Color a sheet from the free Dinosaur collection (10+ min).

Hands-on activity: fossil dig

Bury small toy dinosaurs or shells in a tray of sand. Children dig gently with spoons and paintbrushes, like paleontologists, then sketch each find and guess what it tells them. For a fossil print, press a shell or toy foot into modeling clay.

Discussion questions

How can scientists know what a dinosaur ate if nobody saw it? Why are birds called living dinosaurs? What other animals have horns or beaks today?

A note on the science

Scientists say non-avian dinosaurs became extinct about 66 million years ago; birds are the dinosaurs that survived. Dinosaur colors are mostly unknown, so children can color them any way they like.

Matching coloring pages

doodlelearn.com/coloring-pages/dinosaurs