

TITLE: Build-A-Saurus

Audience: All ages especially those in early childhood

Activity Overview:

Participants will have the opportunity to create a new dinosaur species out of a Build- A-Saurus play set. They will learn about the various physiological structures of dinosaurs.

Program/Exhibit Criterion addressed:

- Edutainment: By having the visitors create their own unusual dinosaur they will be both entertained and educated about dinosaur physiology.
- Differentiation and control of variables: The visitors will be able to interchange the Build-A-Saurus play set pieces to vary, the outcome of each new dinosaur species created.
- Apparatus: Participants will use the Build-A-Saurus play set pieces provided in the kits. Each piece has a special function related to dinosaur physiology.
- Control of media: Participants will use their senses of sight and touch as they create colorful unique dinosaur sculptures.
- Learning styles: This experience is designed for tactile and visual learners.
- Flexibility/Displaying the Big Idea/Minimizing risk for all: This activity is easy, fun, and adaptable to all ages and abilities of participants.
- The act of creation: Participants will enjoy creating a new species of dinosaur and may like dreaming up, drawing, or sculpting a new dinosaur species at home.

Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

Participants will view and discuss different dinosaur characteristics with the presenter to better understand how their new creation would have functioned.

NATIONAL STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Science Inquiry

CONTENT STANDARD A:

As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop:

- Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- Understanding about scientific inquiry

CONTENT STANDARD B:

As a result of the activities in grades K-4, all students should develop an understanding of:

- Properties of objects and materials
- Position and motion of objects

CONTENT STANDARD C:

As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop understanding of:

- The characteristics of organisms
- Organisms and environments

CONTENT STANDARD E:

As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop:

- Abilities of technological design
- Understanding about science and technology

Time Involved:

- 5 minutes preparation time
- 5-10minutes activity time - dependent on participant's interest
- 5 minutes clean up time

Materials Needed:

- 10 Build-A-Saurus play sets

Reproducibles: none

Background:

During this demonstration children will create a new species of dinosaur and will theorize how its body parts were used.

There have been over 400 named dinosaurs found all over the world during the past 200 years and many more that have not even been named. Some dinosaurs found were Theropods and some were Sauropods, these dinosaurs are most notable for the crests, frills, and spikes found on their bodies. This body ornamentation was used in different ways by different dinosaurs.

Lesson Steps:

1. Set up the demonstration area with the Build-A-Saurus play sets.
2. Invite the participants to create a new species of dinosaur by putting the play set pieces together.
3. Discuss the individual characteristics of their dinosaur as they create it and ask the participant what they think each body part was used for.
4. Praise the participants for their dinosaur creations.
5. Thank the visitors for their participation.

Academic Extensions/Modifications:

Visitors can draw pictures or sculpt from clay what they think a new species of dinosaur would look like.

Evaluation:

The participant's verbal discussions with the presenter and the outcomes of the dinosaur creations will validate the success of the demonstration.

References:

Brett-Surman, Michael. DINOSAURS. London: Time Life Books, 2000.

www.enchantedlearning.com

www.dinodictionary.com