

KITCHEN SCIENTISTS

LITTLE LAB WEEK 1: DINOSAURS

EVER WONDER . . . WHAT DINOSAURS ATE, AND HOW WE KNOW?



What we learned this week:

- Paleontologists are scientists that study dinosaurs.
- Some dinosaurs were herbivores and some were carnivores.
- Scientists can figure out what dinosaurs ate by looking at fossils of their teeth.

Curiosity Circle

Welcome to the first day of Kitchen Scientists! We will be using familiar kitchen supplies – like the ones Captain Curiosity has in his clubhouse – to explore lots of different things. Today, Captain Curiosity called us and asked us some questions about dinosaurs. Specifically, he was curious about what dinosaurs like to eat, and how we could possibly know -- because dinosaurs aren't alive anymore! We got busy exploring these "Ever Wonder?" questions: **Ever wonder what a paleontologist is?** A paleontologist is a scientist who studies things that lived a long time ago – like dinosaurs! Kids can be paleontologists too: a 12-year old found T. Rex skin and a 3-year old found a dinosaur egg! **Ever wonder what a fossil is?** Fossils are evidence of animals or plants that lived a long time ago. Paleontologists



use special tools to excavate dinosaur fossils from the ground, such as shovels and brushes. They also measure their fossils and take pictures of them. Paleontologists use their tools very carefully so they don't break or damage the fossils. **Ever wonder what dinosaurs ate and how we know?** Most dinosaurs were plant-eaters ("herbivores"). But some dinosaurs were meat eaters ("carnivores"). Paleontologists can tell a lot about what dinosaurs ate by what their teeth looked like. Herbivores often had blunt, flat teeth that were good for getting leaves and twigs from trees and for grinding tough plants. Meat-eaters had big, strong jaws with sharp teeth. Examples of herbivores are Stegosauruses and Triceratopses. Examples of carnivores include Tyrannosaurus Rexes (T-Rex) and Velociraptors.

Curiosity Centers

- ◆ **Discovery Activity:** We used kitchen spoons, measuring cups and sifters to excavate dinosaur tooth fossils out of sand. Our sand was made out of sugar, and our fossils were mini marshmallows (herbivore teeth) and triangular crackers (carnivore teeth). Once we excavated the teeth, we measured them, took pictures of them, examined them with a magnifying glass and matched them to the type of dinosaur they came from. We also examined real tooth fossils using our jumbo magnifiers.



- ◆ **Art Activity:** We made our own dinosaur puppets with removable teeth plates. Insert one, you've got an herbivore. Insert the other and – presto! – you have a carnivore!



- ◆ **Cooking Activity:** We made an herbivore dinosaur snack. Ingredients: honey, apples, raisins, mini marshmallows, baby carrots.

The Big Deal

We put on our herbivore dinosaur puppets and went on a veggie hunt. Whenever we found meat, we yelled "carnivore" so our other friend, the T-Rex, would come and gobble it up instead!

Hey, Hey Word of the Day: CARNIVORE

Curiosity @ Home

Play with your dinosaur puppet at meal time. What does it want to eat? Also, insert the dinosaur background into your child's plate and sort out foods into what carnivores would eat and what herbivores would eat! Finally, use your colander to excavate dinosaur "fossils" from sugar "sand" at home.

Songs & Poems

C-Zone Song Welcome Song

(to the tune "I'm a Little Teapot")
Welcome to the C-Zone
It's time for us to start
Exploring and learning
We all do our part
(Spoken) So button up your lab
coats and let's get curious!

Song to the Captain (to the tune "Wheels on the Bus")

Carnivores had sharp teeth
(What?)
Sharp teeth (What?)
Sharp teeth (What?)
Carnivores had sharp teeth
(What?)
For eating lots of meat.

Herbivores had flat teeth (What?)
Flat teeth (What?)
Flat teeth (What?)
Herbivores had flat teeth (What?)
For eating plants and veggies.

One Little Herbivore, One Little Carnivore (to the tune "Ten Little Indians")

One little, two little,
Three little herbivores
Four little, five little,
Six little herbivores.
Seven little, eight little,
Nine little herbivores
Eating plants today!

One little, two little,
Three little carnivores
Four little, five little,
Six little carnivores
Seven little, eight little,
Nine little carnivores
Eating meat today!

What Dinos Ate (to the tune "London Bridge is Falling Down")

Stegasauruses ate plants
They ate plants
They ate plants!
Stegasauruses ate plants
They ate plants! (HERBIVORE!)

T-Rex dinos – they ate meat
They ate meat
They ate meat!
T-Rex dinos, they ate meat
They ate meat! (CARNIVORE!)

C-Zone Goodbye Song

Goodbye from the C-Zone
It's time for us to go
The learning never stops
Now tell me what you know!

