



FAMILY GUIDE



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DINOSAURS A TO Z FAMILY GUIDE

Dinosaurs A to Z is a stomp through the alphabet to explore the extraordinary world of dinosaurs.. As you engage with Dinosaurs A to Z resources, your family will learn about dinosaur species, the museum's paleontology collections, and new exciting scientific research.

Twenty-six short videos, featuring paleontologist Dr. Victoria Egerton, will introduce a new dinosaur for each letter of the alphabet. The videos will include information such as the dinosaur's scientific name and pronunciation, physical features, diet, role in the ecosystem, geologic time scale, and much more. Each video will have a companion art page, featuring a custom illustration from paleo artist, Jason Poole

This guide will provide your family with a variety of tools, resources, and tips on how to extend your child's interest and knowledge of dinosaurs.

FAMILY TIPS AND IDEAS

How can I engage my child and our family in Dinosaurs A to Z?

- Set a specific time each week dedicated to Dinosaurs A to Z. Routine and consistency is important for young children and the release of each dinosaur video and art page can be something that the whole family can look forward to. What facts do they know about this dinosaur?
- Create a research book or alphabet wall with each art page released. As you collect each dinosaur art page, add them to a binder or blank book. Add additional pages each week that feature your own family's illustration or additional facts you researched on each dinosaur.

How can I encourage my child to investigate and research dinosaurs after each video?

- What questions or wonderings do you still have? Every family member can create a list of questions about each featured dinosaur and put them inside a jar. Let one family member draw a question from the jar every day and together investigate and research to answer the question. Use the internet or request books from your local library.
- As the weeks continue and you start to learn about the variety of dinosaur, compare dinosaurs and discuss the ways are some similar and different. Could it be their diet, size, and height? Create your own table or graph to categorize dinosaur information just like a scientist.

How do I extend and scaffold my child's learning after watching the Dino A-Z videos?

- Create a story! Work as a family to illustrate pictures and write a story about the life of this week's dinosaur.
- Be a Paleo Artist! Research additional dinosaurs for the letters, and create your own paleo art. What colors were their skin? Did they have feathers? The family paleo art could be drawing, painting, or even a 3D sculpture.

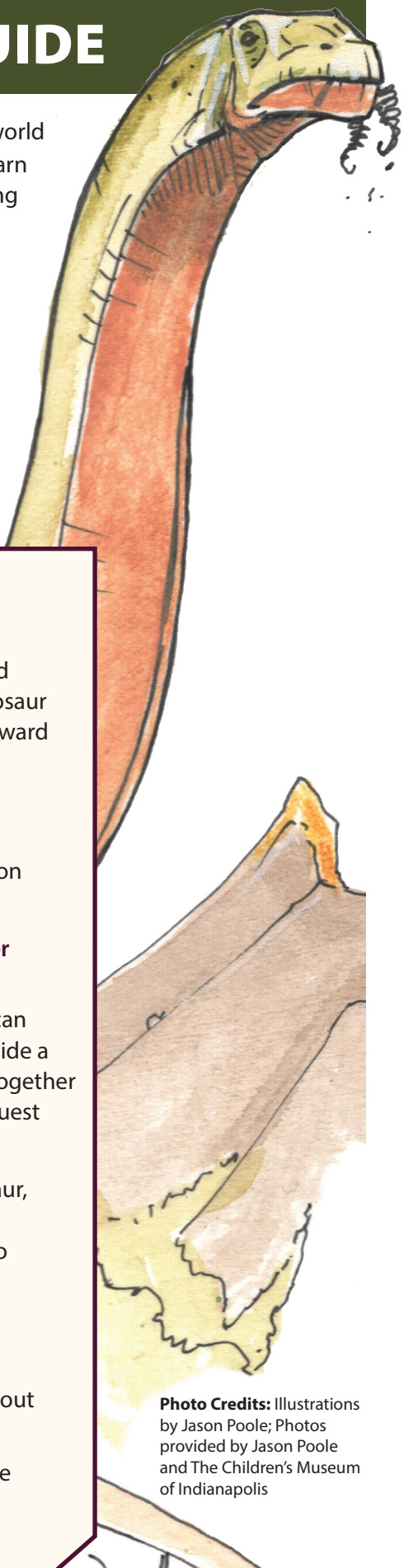


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Meet the Dinosaurs A to Z Team!

PALEONTOLOGIST:

DR. VICTORIA EGERTON,

Eli Lilly and Company Extraordinary Scientist-in-Residence

Dr. Egerton is the Eli Lilly and Company Extraordinary Scientist-in-Residence at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. She is also a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester (UK). She has conducted extensive research and fieldwork in South America, Europe, the Caribbean, Australia, and North America and has held positions at universities and museums in both the USA and the UK.

What inspires her work:

"Curiosity inspires me and drives me to do research. I love learning new things and trying to solve puzzles. Each fossil can either be a new puzzle piece to a research question I am working on, or it can inspire new questions."

"I am one of the lead researchers and coordinators for the Mission Jurassic team. It has been exciting to have helped build this project from the ground up since it began in 2016."



PALEO ARTIST:

JASON C. POOLE

Jason C. Poole is a paleontology artist or dinosaur artist from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been published in National Geographic magazine and his art has been exhibited in several museums in the USA and the UK.

What inspires his work:

"I am obsessed with nature, science, and art. My job as a paleontology illustrator or paleo artist allows me to swirl all that around in my head to create art informed by our understanding of science."

"I am amazed by the events that lead to any dinosaur art, from a volunteer or fossil hound finding a fossil site, to the team excavating the fossil bones to fossil preparators working to preserve and understand the fossils to scientists who study the fossils. They all work with me to flesh out not only the dinosaurs but the environments they lived in millions of years ago."



How to Use Dinos A to Z for a Variety of Learners

Try these Dinosaurs A-Z inspired activities and lessons at home to enrich and support what your child may already be working on at school.

Lower Elementary Learning:

- **Word Wall** - As your family collects each paleo art page, display each dinosaur and letter on a wall. As the weeks continue, you will create an alphabet chart that can be used as a word wall. Below each alphabet letter, have your child write or illustrate another word that begins with the same letter. Example, under the letter A for Alamosaurus, children can use post-it notes to write or illustrate the words apple, ant, alligator, astronaut.
- **Bar Graph Data Collection** - Create a bar graph that records data on how many dinosaurs are herbivore, carnivores, and omnivores. As you learn information about a new dinosaur, record their diet on your bar graph. Ask your child every few weeks which diet has the most, which diet has the least. Record data and have fun comparing numbers.
- **Dinosaur Textures and Attributes** - As you learn about various dinosaurs, discuss what make each one of them unique. Is it their scales, plates, horns, or feathers? Collect materials that look or feel like dinosaur attributes. Have a discussion with your child about different textures and materials. Paint using these material to further explore and investigate. Materials may include bubble wrap, feathers, sticks, rocks.

Upper Elementary Learning:

- **Dinosaur Diorama** - Study the geological time period of specific dinosaurs and their habits. Create a diorama showcasing that specific dinosaur's environments and how that impacted their survival or extinction.
- **Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Investigation** - Take a hike or hunt around your backyard for various rocks and minerals. Study and classify your rocks based on the different combinations of minerals. Continue to research and investigate how fossils are discovered by paleontologists and how minerals are used today.
- **Dig Site Data Journal** - Create your own dig site using sand, rocks, and dirt in a baby pool or sensory table. Bury pretend fossils and rocks for children to discover and investigate. As your child discovers new fossils in their dig site, have them create a scaled map of where each fossil was discovered in relation to one another. Have them measure and weigh fossils as well and record their discoveries in a journal.

Additional Sites and Resources

- **Children's Museum Dino Hub:** childrensmuseum.org/dinosphere
- **Mission Jurassic:** childrensmuseum.org/new-dinosphere

