

Dinosaur Name Game

Did you know that the word dinosaur means terrible lizard? Dinosaurs are often given a name because of a unique feature they have with their skeleton, where it was found, or even a scientist or person that did the discovering!

Examples:

Skeletal feature - *Triceratops* means three-horned-face (tri, cera, tops). Named because of those iconic horns!

Location - *Utahceratops* means horn-face-of Utah, where it was found!

Name - *Lambeosaurus* was named after Lawrence Lambe, an American paleontologist in the early 1900's!

With this fun activity, you can create your own prehistoric critters!!

Prep

There are a couple of fun ways to do this activity! Download this PDF of dinosaur names broken down! (link)

You can also create your own Dino Dice using this great paper folding activity:

(<https://www.firstpalette.com/pdf/cube.pdf>)

You can also simply use the reference sheet and pick the coolest sounding names and create a dino on paper!

Goal

Dinosaur names are often based in Greek or Latin, though other words come from dozens of different languages across the globe. We've discovered dinosaurs on all seven continents!

What You'll Need

Name Game Worksheet

Pencil

Coloring

Construction Paper/Copy paper

Dino Dice (optional)

Directions

1. For younger kiddos that have a hard time reading the names from the list, the Dino Dice are a great alternative! Pick dino name parts and put them on the sides of the dice! You can make as many as you'd like, but three or four work very well for the activity.
2. Roll the dice and write down the name sections, and then put it all together in the way that sounds the best to you!
 - a. Example: Allothorodon (allo - thero-don): strange beast tooth
3. If the dice aren't being used, you can pick names off of the sheet and make your own creation!

4. A great next step is to draw the creation!
 - a. If you want to take it farther, work on the details of your creation! When did it live? Is it a Triassic, Jurassic, or Cretaceous dinosaur? How big was it: length, height, weight? Did it live in a herd or go solo? Predator or prey?
 5. Share your creation with us via our social media!
 - a. <https://www.facebook.com/DinoRidge/>
 - b. <https://twitter.com/DinosaurRidgeCO>
 - c. <https://www.instagram.com/dinosaur.ridge/>
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