

Dinosaur Ridge Curriculum

6th-8th Grade Activities

Activity Options

Students can choose from one of the following three learning activity options, or complete all three.

- ◆ Make a Cladogram!
- ◆ Virtual Field Trip Log
- ◆ Dinosaur Ridge Crossword



OPTION ONE: Make a Cladogram!

Scientists build cladograms to study how animals relate to one another. Sometimes, scientists only have the fossils left of an animal. In this activity, various kitchen utensils will represent different fossils.

If you are working at home, gather as many different kinds of utensils as you can, preferably at least six! It's time to start thinking like a scientist. What do the utensils have in common? What are some differences?

- 1 List at least 6 items you will be using for this activity. They will represent "fossils:"
- 2 Study the "fossils." Find the commonality between them all. List this characteristic here:
- 3 Discover at least 6 other characteristics. Examples include color, height, and threading. List them all here:
- 4 It is time to compare and contrast by creating a cladogram. We have drawn one below, but yours may look very different! Your cladogram may have multiple branches stemming from each other or just a few depending on the characteristics you found in Step 3. The most important part is to fill in blank A with what you discovered in Step 2.

