

Dinosaur Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007.

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus; but not the only objectives being utilized by these lessons. Language goals are used daily.

I Virginia Foundation Block 7 :History-Change Over Time

- The child will develop an awareness of change over time.
- Express the difference between past and present using words such as before, after, now, and then
- Order/sequence events and objects
- Ask questions about artifacts from everyday life in the past
- Recount episodes from stories about the past
- Take on a role from a specific time, use symbols and props, and act out a story/narrative
- Describe past times based on stories, pictures, visits, songs and music

II. Concepts to be Taught:

1. Dinosaur means "terrible lizard"
2. No people were alive when dinosaurs lived
3. Some dinosaurs either ate plants or other dinosaurs
4. Dinosaurs were the largest animals to ever live
5. Dinosaurs were different sizes: some huge, and some very small
6. People have found dinosaur *fossils*: "bones," "footprints" and "teeth"
7. We don't know why dinosaurs are no longer alive.
8. Lived in Herds
9. Dinosaurs hatched from eggs

III. Different Kinds of Dinosaurs:

1. Triceratops
 - 3 horns on top of head
 - 30 feet long (really big)- you can measure on floor or hallway to give children an idea of how big is really big
 - armored body

- Scissor like teeth: ate plants

III. Different Kinds of Dinosaurs:

2. Stegosaurus

- Strong legs
- Armor plates on body
- 20 feet long (really long/big)
- Tail as weapon
- Ate plants

3. Ankylosaurus

- Like a tank - armored plates on outside
- Used spiked tail like a bat
- Plant eater
- 32 feet long
- Soft stomach

4. Diplodocus

- Tallest dinosaur - up to 90 feet high
- Plant eater
- Long tail
- Long neck, small head
- Good eyesight

5. Tyrannosaurus Rex

- Meat eater
- 40-45 feet long
- Stood up on two feet, short arms
- Teeth like knives
- Could run fast

IV. Books To Read:

Digging Up Dinosaurs by Alikei

Dinosaur Babies by Lucille Recht Penner

Dinosaurs by Gail Gibbons

Dinosaurs by Constance Milburn

The Littlest Dinosaurs by Bernard Most

Ten Terrible Dinosaurs by Paul Strickland

What Happened to the Dinosaurs by Franklyn M. Branley

Patricks' Dinosaurs by Carol Carrick

V. Online Resources:

<http://www.prekinders.com/dinosaurunit.htm>

<http://www.pre-kpages.com/dinos.html>

<http://ted.coe.wayne.edu/sse/units/dino.htm>

<http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/science/animals/>

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Dinosaurs/>

http://www.themeunits.com/May_c.html

<http://www.geocities.com/webeme76/dinosaur.html>

This one has wonderful resources : Check it out !

<http://www.fastq.com/~jbpratt/education/theme/animals/dinosaurs.html>

Check out- Just a few of my favorites !

Child Family Fun:

<http://www.childfun.com/dev/index.php/activity-themes/animals.html>

The Activity Idea Place; <http://www.123child.com/act/>

Learning Treasures: <http://www.learningtreasures.com/>

Enchanted Learning : A great resource !

Other: Mailbox Magazine from the Education Center has several units and ideas)

Aug/Sept 1997

Aug/Sept 1998

Feb/March 2001

Feb/March 2004

June/July 2004

Aug/Sept 2007

Feb/March 2009

VI. Unit Props:

1. Paper Mache Volcano : that can be erupted with baking soda , food color and vinegar
2. Plastic Dinosaurs - all sizes
3. Sensory Table : with sand and rocks
4. A real dinosaur bone
5. A model of a dinosaur that is only bones.
6. Play egg- from MacDonald's or another such restaurant that gave away toys when the movie "**Dinosaur**" was released.
7. Show movies such as "Dinosaur" or any of the "Land Before Time" series
8. I used the overhead to trace onto bulletin board paper the outline of the dinosaurs I planned on teaching. Then I

painted and laminated them.

I used them for the unit.

9. Name the room as : "Donahoe Dinosaur Park"

VII. Art and Drama/Sensory Play Activities For Children:

- **Blocks:** Use wooden blocks and plastic dinosaurs for play
- **Sensory Table :** (Water/Sand Table) Put dirt or sand in table with toy dinosaurs for play. put dog bones in the table for kids to find
- **Volcano:** Erupt the volcano and have the children make the dinosaurs run away
- **Art:**
 1. **Color Sheets** of each dinosaur (Color books are great resources as well as online free color sheets)
 2. **Make fossils :** hand prints , footprints or marbles in an air dry clay for dinosaur eggs , paint when dry
 3. **Puzzles:** Make simple paper puzzles from colored pictures of dinosaurs
 4. **Stick puppets:** from a color sheet (reduce to make smaller on scanner or Xerox machine), color and glue to Popsicle sticks.
 5. **Sponge Paint:** if you have sponge dinosaurs - sponge paint
 6. **Sponge Paint Footprints:** I made dinosaur footprints and children painted those : Math- can be used to measure objects or the room or how long a dinosaur might be.
 7. **Graph and count Gummy Dinosaurs** (sort according to color and how many, find pairs of the same colors , then eat of course)
 8. **Chart Story:** What I learned about Dinosaurs
 9. **Graph Dinosaurs** according to plant or meat eater
Graph
Put a picture of dinosaur under the correct heading as teaching or as a review at end of unit
 10. **Dictations :** draw picture and write what learned about favorite dinosaur
 11. **Dinosaur Nest:** small paper bag with leaves, branches, shredded paper- add paper eggs or play dough /or clay eggs :fold down sides of bag

VIII. Snack Ideas

1. Dinosaur Mud

bottom layer: cookie crust (whatever you have on hand)

Layer 1: chocolate ice cream

Layer 2: instant chocolate pudding

Layer 3: cool whip -

Freeze: Take out 10 minutes before serving

VIII. Snack Ideas continued :

2. Dinosaur Eggs

- Cook hard boiled eggs-
- Make a bright Kool-Aid,
- Crack the shell but not take the shell off of the egg
- Put egg in Kool-Aid
- Refrigerate and eat later

IX. Poem : I found this handwritten in my dinosaur plans that I had copied from somewhere in the 1990's . I have no idea of the source.

Going on a Dinosaur Watch

Going on a dinosaur watch
Going to see a big one
I've got a camera , Click
What's that up ahead?

(make up sounds and hand motions to make it more fun)

1. A swamp - (glub, glub- wide stepping motions)

Can't go over it,

Can't go under it,

Got to go through it

2. A blazing hot desert (wipe forehead with hand)

Can't go over it,

Can't go under it,

Got to go through it

3. An ocean (swimming motions)

Can't go over it,

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Can't go under it,
Got to go through it

4. A Grassland (swish hands)

Can't go over it,
Can't go under it,
Got to go through it

Going on a Dinosaur Watch

5. Tyrannosaurs Rex up ahead- grassland

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah! (fast running - hand on
legs)

Go back through-
grassland
ocean
desert
swamp
and Now back home again!
Sigh of Relief Sigh!