



## Nursery - Autumn Term 2 - Dinosaurs



| Question |                                                                      | Ideas to think about                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | What is a dinosaur?                                                  | Allow time for the children to share their own ideas., then build on them. Explain that the word dinosaur means 'terrible lizard', but they were not lizards. Similar to modern day reptiles. Discuss different features |
| 2        | How do we know so much about dinosaurs?                              | Paleontologists study fossil remains to give them clues and information about the size and shape of different dinosaurs, how they lived and what they ate. Look at examples of fossils - what shapes can they see?       |
| 3        | What did dinosaurs eat?                                              | Explore the shape of different dinosaurs' teeth (e.g. T-rex and Triceratops) - link this to modern day carnivore and herbivore. Take time to look at our own teeth and how we care for them                              |
| 4        | Were all dinosaurs big?                                              | Encourage the children to make predictions about the size of familiar dinosaurs. Can they think of a big dinosaur? How about a small dinosaur? Compare e.g. the size of a typical stegosaurus with a velociraptor        |
| 5        | How did dinosaurs move about?                                        | How might palaeontologists find out about the way that a dinosaur moved about. Look at examples of fossilised skeletons - can they predict whether they walked on 4 or 2 feet? Dinosaurs did not fly or swim!            |
| 6        | What happened to the dinosaurs?                                      | They became extinct many years ago. Scientist do not know why - perhaps the planet became too hot or too cold or perhaps there was not enough food for them - what do they think?                                        |
| 7        | If you had magic powers, which dinosaur would you like to meet? Why? |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Big Question**  
What can you tell me about dinosaurs?

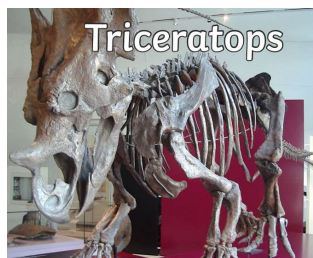
| Sticky vocabulary |                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| dinosaur          | Means 'terrible lizard' They were reptiles that lived a long time ago                                                                    |
| fossils           | Are rocks that show the shapes of plants and animals that lived long ago                                                                 |
| paleontologist    | A scientist that looks for and finds out about fossils                                                                                   |
| extinct           | When a type of animal dies out                                                                                                           |
| carnivore         | An animal that eats meat/other animals. Tyrannosaurus Rex was a carnivore                                                                |
| herbivore         | An animal that eats plants. Grass did not grow when dinosaurs were alive, so many ate leaves, moss and fern. Triceratops was a herbivore |
| reptile           | An animal with scaly skin that lays eggs. Their body temperature depends on the outside temperature                                      |
| museum            | A place where you can find out about people, animals, plants or places in the past                                                       |



Velociraptor



head



Triceratops

