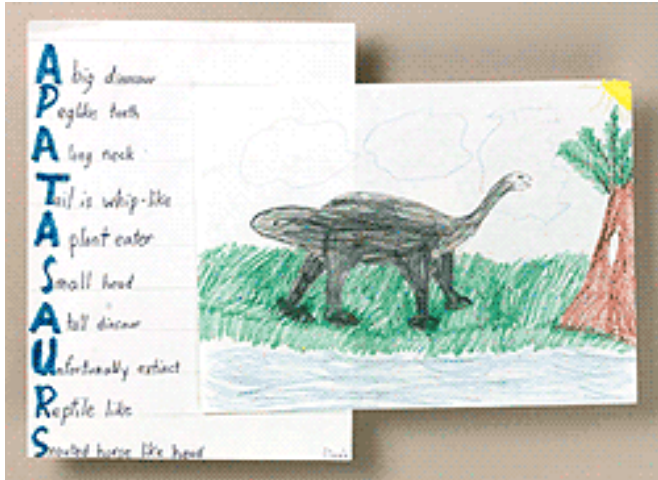


Crayola.com Inspiring Ideas

Dino's Hidden Past



Crayola Supplies

- Crayons (Regular)
- Washable Markers

Other Supplies

- white paper

Why?

Kids adore dinosaurs. Add some science inquiry to this favorite topic and imagine what life looked like millions of years ago.

How?

1. Scientists have reconstructed dinosaurs' sizes and shapes from found bones, but they have no idea what they really looked like grazing in a field. What do you think their skin looked like? Were they colorful creatures?
2. In what ways does an animal's skin help it to survive? Why is an elephant's skin so tough? Why do leopards have spots? Why is snake skin so smooth?
3. Some dinosaurs needed to hide to escape their predators. Look at pictures of what scientists think the Earth looked like about 100 million years ago. What colors and textures would a dinosaur's skin need to blend into that landscape? To protect itself from harm?
4. When you have enough information to make a scientific guess, draw your ideas using Crayola® Washable Markers and Crayola® Crayons.
5. Compare your dinosaur skin ideas to those of your friends.

When and Where Suggestions?

- "We pretended we were paleontologists, matching dinosaur food supplies to body colors." Maximillian L., home

school dad of kids ages 6 and 9 years.

- "My son wanted to make realistic Crayola® Model Magic® dinosaurs after drawing his pictures." Meena B., mom of 7 year old.

Interesting Information

Taking clues from animals today, some scientists think that large dinosaurs may have been gray, like elephants and hippos. Paleontologists also wonder if skin colors and textures helped dinosaurs stay cool in the sun by reflecting light. Or could they have been brightly colored, like many birds, to attract their mates? What do you think?

Safety Guidelines

Safety guidelines recommend this art project is suitable for children age 4 years and older. Close adult supervision is required to ensure children's safety.

Related Books

Dinosaur Hunters (Step into Reading, Step 4 Book/Grades 2-4) by John Jones

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni

Nature Hide and Seek Jungles by John Norris Wood

Related Videos

The Making of Walking With Dinosaurs

National Geographic Kids Peek-A-Boo Pals

Related Software

Magic School Bus Explores in the Age of Dinosaurs

Dinosaur Hunter Deluxe (DK)

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