

Lesson 1: Discovering Dinosaurs

Using the Dan & Darci Dig a Dozen Dino Egg Kit

In this lesson, students become junior paleontologists! Using the Dan & Darci Dig a Dozen Dino Egg Kit, learners excavate mini dinosaur figures, identify species, and learn how fossils teach us about prehistoric life.

Learning Objectives

- Introduce paleontology and fossil discovery through hands-on exploration.
- Develop fine motor skills and observational accuracy.
- Encourage scientific vocabulary: fossil, excavation, species, tools, layers.
- Practice classification by identifying dinosaurs using visual clues.

Materials Needed

- Dan & Darci Dig a Dozen Dino Egg Kit
- Paper towels or tray for cleanup
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Notebook for recording observations

Lesson Procedure

- 1 **1. Warm-Up Discussion:** Ask: 'What are fossils? How do scientists find them?' Show dinosaur images to build excitement.
- 2 **2. Excavation Setup:** Place an egg on a tray and demonstrate safe digging techniques using the included tools.
- 3 **3. Discovery:** As each dinosaur is revealed, pause to guess which species it might be. Compare with the identification cards.
- 4 **4. Observation:** Students draw or write details about each dinosaur's features (horns, spikes, neck length, etc.).
- 5 **5. Group Share:** Discuss which dinosaurs were found and their diets or habitats.

Discussion & Reflection

- Why do paleontologists dig carefully?
- What clues tell us what dinosaurs ate?
- What other evidence (besides bones) helps scientists learn about the past?

Extension Activities

- Art: Draw or sculpt your favorite discovered dinosaur.
- Math: Measure and compare the lengths of different dinosaurs.
- Research: Choose one dinosaur and map where fossils have been found.

Parent & Teacher Tips

- Soak eggs in water for 3–5 minutes before excavation to soften the clay.
- Encourage teamwork and discussion during digging.
- Use this activity to introduce geologic time periods and earth layers.
- Create a 'dinosaur museum' at home with labeled species cards.

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