



## **Read Write Count P2: *My First Book of Dinosaurs* STEM learning activities**

STEM learning activities based on *My First Book of Dinosaurs* by Zoë Ingram

**Age 6-8**

**CfE First Level**

**Resource created by Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE)**

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## About this resource

This resource was developed by [Raising Aspirations in Science Education \(RAiSE\)](#) and provides links to some suggestions for further STEM learning activities to complement and enhance children's learning from one of the books included in this year's [Primary 2 Read Write Count bag](#). The key themes explored in these activities are dinosaurs, food chains, birds and eggs, as well as construction and modelling.

## Learning activities

### Activity 1: Dinosaur detectives

ENG 1-12a, HWB 1-50a

Using the front cover, discuss what the picture clues tell us about different dinosaurs. What do we notice? For example, the book has information about 20 different dinosaurs, footprints of dinosaurs differed, plants were important to dinosaurs and/or dinosaurs hatch from eggs. This video from [Explorify](#) (login required) is great for describing observations and applying ideas in unfamiliar contexts.

### Activity 2: Who lays eggs?

HWB 1-50a

Learn more about animals that lay eggs using [this clip on animals that lay eggs from the BBC](#) (4 minutes, 8 seconds).

### Activity 3: How big is your dinosaur?

EXA 1-03a, MNU 1-11a

Choose a dinosaur from the book and make estimates of how tall or long it is. Then

use string to recreate the dinosaur outside, showing the length and height. You might also wish to use natural materials or chalk to recreate a picture from the book of your chosen dinosaur.

#### Activity 4: Where on the map were they?

EXA 1-03a, SOC 1-12b

Using the illustrations in the book, draw representations of the dinosaurs and plot these on a globe or map of the world. Compare the climates of each place or continent with our own and how these affect living things.

#### Activity 5: Dinosaur diets

SCN 1-02a

Choose another dinosaur from the book and identify its diet. Explore the similarities and differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores (such as teeth types or shapes) using [Explorify](#) (login required) or [BBC Bitesize: Feeding and Food Chains](#) (login required).

#### Activity 6: Grow your own dinosaur food

SCN 1-03a, EXA 1-03a

Grow your own “herbivore food” by planting cress in recycled yoghurt pots (see [Jamie Oliver’s guide to creating egg cress heads](#)). Choose one of the herbivores within the book to recreate when you design your pot to show which dinosaurs ate plants. Observe and record your findings.

#### Activity 7: Question creators

LIT 1-14a, MNU 1-03a

Create word problems or comprehension questions for a peer to solve using information from the book. For example: “Which dinosaur’s length was double its height?” (Iguanodon) or “Which was the heaviest dinosaur shown in this book?”

(Brachiosaurus).

### Activity 8: Dinosaur dictionaries

LIT 1-25a, LIT 1-26a, SCN 1-20a

Create your own “Dinosaur Dictionary” by exploring facts in the book and choosing scientific vocabulary that is new to you or that you find interesting. Draw a picture of what the word means or write a definition in your own words for each word or term you choose. For example: “hollow” (page 5) means: ‘to have a hole or empty space inside, like a cave’.

### Activity 9: Did you know?

MTH 1-15a

Compare weights, heights and lengths of different dinosaurs in the book using the terms “equal to”, “not equal to”, “less than”, “greater than”, and the related symbols ( $=$ ,  $\neq$ ,  $<$ ,  $>$ ) when comparing.

### Activity 10: One of the first dinosaurs

SCN 1-02a

The first dinosaur featured in the book is the Coelophysis. Find out more about it using [an episode from Andy’s Dinosaur Adventures](#) (14 minutes, login required).

### Activity 11: Engineer a dinosaur model

TCH 1-09a

Using recycled, junk modelling or available materials, recreate a dinosaur from the book by building it. Pay close attention to its features such as the size of its neck, the number of legs it stands on and the size of its body. You might wish to make a costume of your chosen dinosaur; use [Makedo Hub](#) for inspiration.

### Activity 12: Habitats for the herd

SCN 1-15a, TCH 1-09a, SOC 1-13b

Using natural materials found outside (twigs, sticks, stones, leaves, grass, etc.) create a comfortable habitat or nest for a chosen dinosaur from the book. Think about where the dinosaur found its food sources. For example, Diplodocus used its long neck to 'reach leaves on the highest branches'.

### Activity 13: Fun facts

TCH 1-02a, LIT 1-14a

Research a dinosaur that isn't in the book, creating a similar fact file in the same style. Create a group or class book using these fact files.

### Activity 14: Choice of order

MNU 1-02a

Choose a few of the dinosaurs from the book and order them by different categories. For example, choose five dinosaurs then order them from smallest to largest, shortest to longest and lightest to heaviest.

### Activity 15: Top Trumps

MNU 1-02a, LIT 1-02a

Recreate a set of [Top Trumps](#) style cards with information contained in the book about each dinosaur. Play with a small group or partner.

### Activity 16: Compare and contrast

TCH 1-02a, LIT 1-02a

On page 12, the "Did you know?" information about the brachiosaurus states that palaeontologists think this species could have lived to 100 years of age. Research modern-day mammals, fish, reptiles or invertebrates that live to a similar age or older, comparing and contrasting their characteristics to dinosaurs.

### Activity 17: World of work

HWB 1-20a

Research the role of palaeontologists and how their work links to dinosaurs. You could use this [YouTube video](#) (3 minutes, 7 seconds) from the National History Museum of Utah to introduce this career and how it links to the world of work.

### Activity 18: Exciting eggs

MNU 1-11a, EXA 1-03a

Using available art resources, draw, design and create your own apatosaurus egg. Use the illustrations and information on pages 14 and 15 to help decide on the measurements and colours that could be used in your design.

### Activity 19: Brilliant birds

SCN 1-14a, TCH 1-02a

The archaeopteryx is “still the closest known link between birds and dinosaurs” even though they “probably couldn’t fly very well”. Find out more about flightless birds from [Britannica Kids](#).

### Activity 20: Sorting sauropods and theropods

SCN 1-01a, MNU 1-20b, LIT 1-14a

Theropods and sauropods are classifications of dinosaurs, categorising them depending on how they walked (on two or four legs). Sort the dinosaurs in the book into these categories. What do you notice about this? For example, are there more theropods or sauropods? What diets do theropods or sauropods tend to have?

## **Further resources**

- For further teaching and learning ideas linked to the context of dinosaurs, visit the [Dinosaurs First Level](#) context planner from RAiSE.

- For further Read Write Count resources see our other [STEM learning resources](#), our [P2 teacher pack](#) or [P3 teacher pack](#) which include cross curricular learning activities on the books and resources from each bag.