

Dinosaur Research Template

Objectives: Through completing the dinosaur research project, the student will...

- Research important information about a specific dinosaur, including classification, fossil record, diet, habitat, physical characteristics, etc.
- Communicate information in an expository text or report.
- Choose and utilize nonfiction text features such as pictures, captions, headings, etc. to aid in the communication of information.

Standards Alignment ([Common Core State Standards](#)):

5th Grade	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9
6th Grade	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.4 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.7 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.8
7th Grade	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.4 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.7 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.8

At this time, there are no Common Core standards for science. This project covers the following standards from the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) initiative:

3-LS4-1.	Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.
----------	---

A note about standards: This template was designed based upon Common Core standards for grades 5 through 7, the target age range for *Dinoteens #1: Gear and Claw*. However, the template may easily be adjusted for younger and older students. For example:

- A student in 3rd grade may require additional support to find and comprehend relevant research resources.
- A student in 9th grade may write a longer report with a greater emphasis on the science of paleontology and current limits to our knowledge of the Mesozoic Era.

The report may be completed in its entirety, or the parent/student may choose which sections to complete. Whatever you choose, be sure to have fun!

Name: _____

Dinosaur Research Project

Part One: Research

1. Choose the dinosaur you would like to research. The book *Dinoteens #1: Gear and Claw* mentions or describes the following dinosaur species:

- Troodon
- Hadrosaurus
- Albertosaurus
- Triceratops
- Tyrannosaurus rex
- Ankylosaurus
- Stegosaurus
- Pteranodon

Choose a dinosaur from the list, or pick your favorite dinosaur! Record its name below.

I am going to research the dinosaur: _____.

2. Develop your research questions. What would you like to know about your dinosaur? Look at the questions below for guidance. Then, add at least 3 more questions to the list. Remember, questions begin with *who*, *what*, *when*, *why*, or *how*.

- When did the dinosaur live?
- What were the dinosaur's physical characteristics?
- Where was the fossil of this dinosaur found?

● _____

● _____

● _____

● _____

● _____

● _____

3. Write your research questions in the left column of the chart below. Then, find research sources to help you answer your questions. Research sources can include books, documentaries, interviews with experts, or websites.

When you look for sources, **be careful!** It is easy to get off track and find sources with bad information. Here are a few tips for determining if a source can be trusted:

- ❑ *How long ago was the source written?* Scientific knowledge changes very quickly. If you are looking at a book written 10 or 20 years ago, there is a good chance that the information it contains is no longer accurate.
- ❑ *Who created the source?* It is easy for anyone to create a video or put up a website. Make sure that the information you are watching or reading was created by a trained paleontologist or another expert in the field.
- ❑ *What is the purpose of the source?* Dinosaurs are very popular, and people love to write about them. Carefully analyze if your source was written to communicate nonfiction information about your dinosaur, or if it was created mostly to be entertaining and fun.

A good starting place for dinosaur research is the [Dino Directory](#), created by the Natural History Museum of Britain. As you find the answer to each of your questions, record your research in the table. **Be sure to note the source for every fact you write down!** (Tip: if you need more room for your research, use a separate piece of paper!)

Question	Research	Source
When did the dinosaur live?		
What were the dinosaur's physical characteristics?		
Where was the fossil of this dinosaur found?		

Part Two: Written Report

1. Decide on a format for your written report. You may choose from the following options, or get creative and come up with your own!

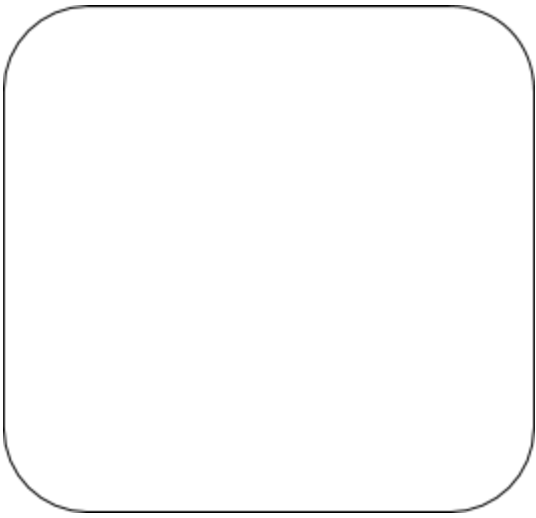
- Formal essay
- Nonfiction book
- Informational video
- Slideshow presentation

2. Decide what nonfiction text features you would like to include in your report. Nonfiction text features are graphics that help explain or give more information about a topic. These can include:

- Pictures with captions
- Headings
- A glossary of important terms
- Diagrams
- Maps

3. Write your report, using the format and nonfiction text features you chose. Be sure to include all of the information you found in your research. For a shorter essay, you might write one sentence about each of your questions. For a longer report, you might write one paragraph about each of your questions. You may use the page templates found below, or you may make up your own.

4. After writing your report, celebrate! You are now an expert in the dinosaur you have chosen to research. Be sure to share your report with others and celebrate your accomplishment!



Five horizontal lines stacked vertically, located to the right of the large rounded square box.

Five horizontal lines stacked vertically, spanning the width of the page.

Five horizontal lines stacked vertically, located in the lower left quadrant of the page.

