

Gallery: Fossil Gallery

Course Name: Key to Fossils

Grade Level: 5, 6, 7, 9 - 12

Activity: (Pre-Activity) Name that Dinosaur

Approximate Time Required: 60 minutes

Vocabulary: nomenclature (naming system)

Objective:

Students will become familiar with several Latin and Greek affixes and roots.

Students will use multiple combining forms added to the suffix “-saurus” to form the name of the dinosaur which they will then draw.

Materials Needed:

Table of Greek and Latin descriptors, drawing paper, pencils, crayons/markers

Procedure:

Hand students the table of Greek and Latin descriptors. Discuss what the prefixes and word parts mean. Demonstrate how to use the list to make up the name of a dinosaur ending with the suffix “-saurus”. For example, Tyrannosaurus Rex literally means tyrant lizard king. A made up name might be *Chloromonophylangiasaurus* meaning green one-toed lizard. Then have the students draw their named dinosaur. The students can label their mythical dinosaur. Have show and tell of the dinosaurs they’ve created.

Observations:

As the students are working, choose a part of their dinosaur name and ask what that word part means.

Evaluation:

Show and tell their dinosaurs. Have them read their dinosaur name and ask the class what it literally means. Do their dinosaur pictures match their names?

Modifications:

This activity can be done on the computer for those talented with Paintbrush. For extensions, students could determine the dinosaur’s habitat, eating habits, predators, prey, etc.

Georgia Standards:

S5L1, S5L4a-b, S5E1a-b, S6CS6c, S6E5g, S7L1a-b, CEC6d, S7L5c, S7CS6c, S8CS6a-c, SCS4a, SCS7c, SCS8a-f, SEC1a-d, SB3c, SB4c, SB4e, SB4f, SB5a-e, SAST6c-d, SZ2a, SZ2c, SZ3a-b, SZ4a-b, SG1c, SEV3c, SES4c-e, SES6d-e

KEY TO FOSSILS—NAME THAT DINOSAUR

Directions: Combine some of the following Latin (L) and Greek (G) affixes and roots to name and illustrate your own imaginary dinosaur.

Colors black: L-atri-nigri: G-melano blue: L-cerule: G-cyano- green: L-viridi: G-chloro white: L-albi: G-leuco yellow: L-flav: G-xantho	Size dwarf: L-pumili: G-nano gigantic: L-ingenti: G-colosso large: L-grandi: G-macro or mega short: L-brevi: G-brachy tall: L-proceri or alti: G-aepy	Shape curved: G-cyrto or gampso egg-shaped: L-oval flat: L-plani: G-platy hollow: L-cavi: G-coelo horned: L-cornut: G-cerato round: L-circuli: G-cyclo or gyro
Texture bare: L-nudi: G-gymno bearded: L-criniti: G-pogono hairy: L-hirsut: G-lasio or trichodo rough: L-asper: G-trachy spiny: L-spini: G-acantho or echino wrinkled: L-corrugat: G-rugos	Animal Parts beak: L-rostr: G-rhyncho claw: L-ungui: G-chelo or onycho foot: L-pedi: G-podo head: L-capit: G-cephalo tail: L-caud: G-cerco tooth: L-denti: G-odonto	Numbers one: L-mono: G-uni two: L-bi or duo: G-di three: L-tri: G-tria four: L-quadri: G-tetra seven: L-septem: G-hepta ten: L-decim: G-deca

Affixes	Definitions	Affixes	Definitions
a, ar, and	no, not	mimus	mimic
acro	top	mono	single
allo	strange	morpho	shaped
alti	tall or high	mucro	pointed
angusti	sharp	nano	dwarf
apato	deceptive	nodo	lumpy
baro	heavy, pressure	nycho	clawed
bi	two	ornitho	bird
brachio	arm	pachy	thick
brachy	short	ped-pas-pes	feet
bronto	thunder	penta	five
canthus	spiked or spined	phalangia	toes
cera	horned	phobo	fearsome
coelo	hollow	placo or plateo	flat
compso	pretty	pola, poly	many
datyl	finger	preno	sloping
deino	terrible	ptero	winged
derm	skin	quadri	four
di	two	raptor	thief
don, den	tooth	rex	king
droaeo	running	rhinot	nose
drypto	wounding	saurus	lizard, reptile
echino	elasma	segno	slow
elmi	foot	stego	roofed
gnathus	jaw	steneo	narrow
hetero	mixed	stenotes	finger
lana	wooly	stereo	twin
lepto	slender	stuthio	ostrich
lestes	robber	tarbo	alarming
lopho	ridged	tetra	four
luro	tail	thero	beast
macro	large	top	head, face
maia	good mother	tri	three
mega	huge	tyranno	tyrant
metro	measured	velox, veloci	speedy, fast