

## Activity Guide



# DINOSAURS DON'T EXIST

By Mark Janssen

Brothers Tom and Jesse are out looking for dinosaurs. Tom says dinosaurs don't exist, but Jesse sees everything his older brother doesn't.

After reading *Dinosaurs Don't Exist*, collect your wits and prepare to go on a dinosaur adventure like Tom and Jesse.

# DINO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



## NARRATIVE

### SETTING THE SCENE

- What are Tom and Jesse doing at the beginning of the story?
- What do you think Tom's plan is?

### IMAGINING GIANTS

- How big do you think a giant dinosaur is?
- What sound do you think a giant dinosaur would make?

### EXPLORING THE WOODS

- Have you ever been on a nature walk? What did you see?

### FACING FEARS

- How do you think Jesse feels when he sees strange things in the woods?
- Have you ever been scared of something that turned out to be not real?

### REALITY CHECK

- What do Tom and Jesse realize about dinosaurs at the end of the story?

### LEARNING FROM STORIES

- What do you think Tom and Jesse learned from their adventure?
- Can you guess the three words that Tom and Jesse no longer say. (Hint: They are "Dinosaurs don't exist!")

### WRAP-UP

- Ask the children if they enjoyed the story and if they have any final thoughts or questions.
- Encourage the children to engage in imaginative play and to explore the real world around them.

## BACKMATTER

### INTRODUCTION TO DINOSAURS

- What are some things you know about dinosaurs?

### EXPLORING DINOSAURS' WORLD

- What do you think Earth was like when dinosaurs lived here?

### LEARNING ABOUT DINOSAURS

- How long did dinosaurs live on Earth compared to humans? Why do you think they lived for such a long time?

### HUNTING FOR FOSSILS

- Would you like to search for dinosaur fossils like paleontologists do? Why or why not?

### DINOSAURS IN THE BOOK

- Which dinosaur from the book do you think was the scariest? Why?

### DINOSAUR CHARACTERISTICS

- Can you name any dinosaurs mentioned in the book? What do you remember about them?

### SIZE MATTERS

- Why do you think many dinosaurs were so big? How do you think being large helped some dinosaurs survive?

### DINOSAURS' RELATIVES

- Did you know that birds are related to dinosaurs? Can you think of any similarities between birds and dinosaurs?

### IMAGINING DINOSAURS TODAY

- If dinosaurs were still alive today, how do you think our world would be different?

### REFLECTION

- After learning more about dinosaurs, what do you find most fascinating about them? Would you like to learn more about dinosaurs in the future?

# DINO-MIGHT WORD SEARCH



G X T Y Y S V P G W  
O D D G T D Y V J U  
O O P V A R U O I F  
S F F Q X P N V S G  
E S E O J U Y A N A  
B M J E S S E W D T  
U G S B W K J I V O  
M F Z R O A R O K M  
P J D I N O S A U R  
S C V Y F F M K W Y

GOOSEBUMPS

DINOSAUR

JESSE

ROAR

TOM

# DIVE INTO DINO COLORING FUN



# DINO DISCOVERY QUIZ FOR LITTLE PALEONTOLOGISTS!



Instructions:

Choose the correct answer for each question.

WHERE DID DINOSAURS LIVE?

- a) Underwater
- b) In the sky
- c) On land

WHAT DINOSAURS ARE MENTIONED IN  
"DINOSAURS DON'T EXIST"?

- a) Tyrannosaurus Rex & Triceratops
- b) Brachiosaurus & Stegosaurus
- c) Both a & b

WHY WERE MANY DINOSAURS SO BIG?

- a) To fly in the sky
- b) To swim in the ocean
- c) To reach high into trees and protect themselves from predators

WHAT ARE DINOSAURS' CLOSEST LIVING  
ANIMAL RELATIVES?

- a) Cats
- b) Birds
- c) Fish

# SWINGING TAILS

Requirements: ribbons

Dinosaurs have long tails. Give each child a dinosaur tail (ribbon). The children tuck the tails into their pants and try to pull them out. Who can collect the most tails?



# DINOSAUR EGGS

Requirements: plastic eggs that can be opened and small objects to hide in the eggs; two of each object, e.g., pebbles, pine cones, acorns, chestnuts, beech nuts, moss, or twigs.

The dinosaurs have laid eggs. Ask the children to sit in a circle and place the plastic eggs in the middle. This is the dinosaur nest. The children take turns opening two eggs. If the contents are the same, set the eggs aside. If they are not, close the eggs again. Continue until all objects have been paired.

# DINOSAUR SPINES

Requirements: ten cones, smartphone or stopwatch

Place cones some distance apart. Tell the children that they are walking across a dinosaur's back. They must walk quietly and quickly so the dinosaur doesn't wake up. The children take turns weaving through the cones. If you want, you can record their times.

Vary by creating two groups and two sets of cones. Two children leave at the same time. When they return, they tag the next child, who may leave immediately. Which group completes the course first? But shh... or they might wake the dinosaurs!

# SHARP TEETH

Requirements: craft sticks, glue, white paper, scissors

Dinosaurs have sharp, triangular teeth, and sometimes they lose one. You can find them in the forest! Create dinosaur teeth by gluing craft popsicle sticks onto a sheet of paper in a triangle. Cut off the excess paper and decorate the teeth. Hide the dinosaur teeth and tell the children that they may go exploring! Can the children find all the dinosaur teeth?

These activity pages are one of Tra's free, downloadable guides.

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[www.trapublishing.com/pages/resources](http://www.trapublishing.com/pages/resources)



Tra Publishing creates beautifully crafted books that inspire social, cultural, and environmental awareness. Tra was founded in 2016 and is based in Miami; its books are distributed worldwide through Simon & Schuster.

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S C V Y F F M K W Y  
P J D I N O S A U R  
M F Z R O A R O K M  
U G S B W K J I V O  
B M J E S S E W D T  
E S E O J U Y A N A  
S F F Q X P N V S G  
O O P V A R U O I F  
O D D G T D Y V J U  
G X T Y Y S V P G W

Answers