

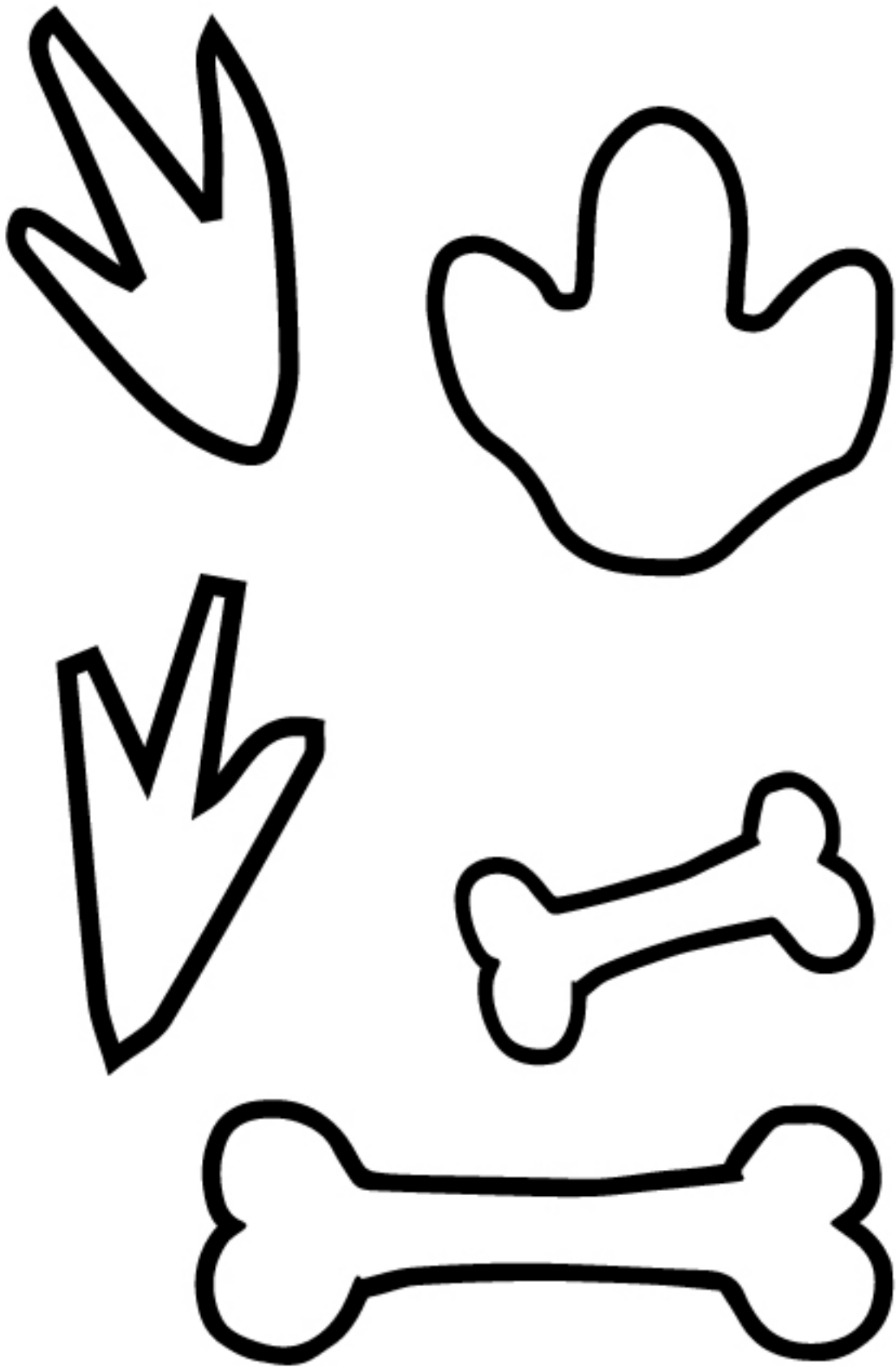
DINOSAUR FOOTPRINT MYSTERY!

Sometimes palaeontologists have to use their creative imagination alongside their huge scientific knowledge about fossils. Dinosaur footprint trackways show us evidence of where dinosaurs used to travel and they often give us clues as to how they used to behave with each other. In this activity, you can impress your friends by creating your own dinosaur trackway mystery and tell a gruesome story of a dinosaur fight!

YOU WILL NEED

- A large sheet of green, orange or yellow sugar paper
- A sheet of plain A4 paper
- Several uncooked potatoes that can be cut in half and made into stamps
- A sharp knife
- Printouts of different types of dinosaur footprints
- Glue
- A pair of scissors
- Coloured feathers
- Brown and red paint in shallow dishes
- Template of dinosaur footprints and bones (provided)





WHAT YOU DO

Step 1

Ask an adult to cut your potato in half and carve out your chosen dinosaur footprint based on the templates provided. Three toed dinosaur footprints were traditionally meat eating predators (like Megalosaurus) whereas round footprints were more gentle plant eating dinosaurs (like Sauropods).



Step 2

Whilst your adult is cutting out the footprints, try and sketch out the type of mystery that you would like your friends to solve on a separate sheet of paper. Will one dinosaur be chasing the other? Will there be a big fight scene?

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Step 3

Now dip one of your potato stamps in the brown paint, and press onto the sugar paper. When you take it away you should have a dinosaur footprint! Now very carefully, see if you can create a dinosaur trackway based on the mystery you want to create.



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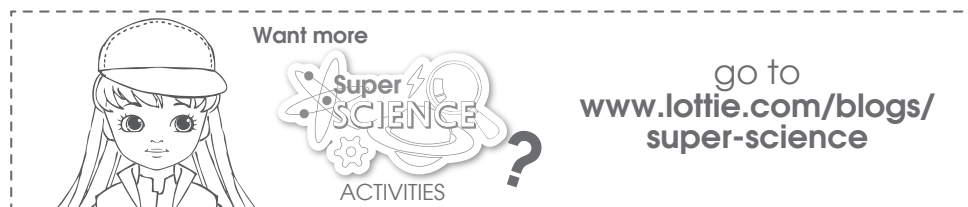
Step 4

If you have chosen to create a scene where there is a fight, you can use red paint to create pools of blood. Using the glue, stick down your feathers and the bones you have cut out to create a gruesome fight scene.



Step 5

When your dinosaur trackway scene has dried, see if you can get your friends to become Palaeontologists and use their imagination to guess what happened!



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