DINOSAURS CAN BE SMALL

ACTIVITY KIT

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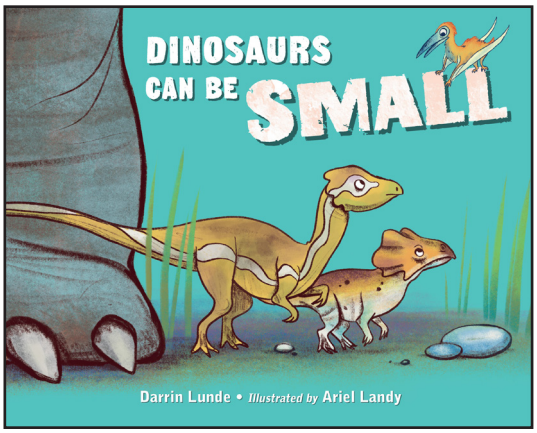

Darrin Lunde
Illustrated by Ariel Landy
978-1-62354-330-3 HC
e-book available

About the Book

Being big isn't everything. It's sometimes very good to be small. Even for dinosaurs! World-class zoologist Darrin Lunde celebrates the power of the small in this fact-filled picture book. Small dinosaurs weren't just cute; their size had evolutionary benefits. And when that giant meteor hit, who do you think survived? Little (and big) kids alike will appreciate the SIZE-mic fun to be had with this prehistoric introduction to dinos of all shapes and sizes.

About the Author

Darrin Lunde worked for more than twenty years as a mammalogist at the American Museum of Natural History and is now the collection manager in the Division of Mammals at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. He's written several books introducing animals to children, including the Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book *Hello, Bumblebee Bat*, as well as *Whose Poop Is That?* and other books in the Whose Is THAT? series.

About the Illustrator

Ariel Landy is an educator and illustrator of books for children, including *Brand-New Bubbe, Gitty and Kvetch*, and the Good Dog series. Ariel began writing and illustrating stories as soon as she could hold a pencil, and she never stopped. She currently lives in France with her husband and their dog.

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Before Reading

Pre-reading concept reviews help enrich students' learning experience!

For younger students (K-2nd):

- After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask students what they think *Dinosaurs Can Be Small* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Ask the students to name small animals and big animals. List their examples in two columns on chart paper. Invite them to think about what big animals have in common and what small animals have in common. Then ask them if they can think of two creatures that are similar, even though one is big and one is small (like a housecat and a lion, or a chicken and an ostrich).

For older students (3rd and up):

- Based on the title and cover, ask students to describe what they think the book is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Have students discuss the following questions in small groups. Tape the questions to a wall and ask students to tape their answers beneath the questions.
    - What is your favorite dinosaur? Why?
    - How do scientists know what dinosaurs looked like?
    - Why did dinosaurs go extinct?
- Ask students to write in their journals about a day in the life of their favorite dinosaur. They should include the dinosaur's scientific name, a description of what it looked like, and some information about its diet and behavior.
- Turn to the list of dinosaur names in the back matter of the book and preview it with the class. Write the names on the board, pointing out the root words they come from, and ask students to write the names and meanings down in their journals.

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After Reading

Post-reading discussion can help students develop greater understanding and connect them to curriculum activities.

For younger students (K-2nd):

- Revisit student predictions from the pre-reading discussion. What predictions were correct? Did *Dinosaurs Can Be Small* surprise them?
- *Dinosaurs Can Be Small* is a book about the advantages of being small. How was being small a good thing for some dinosaurs? What could they do that bigger dinosaurs couldn't? What are some of the benefits of being small for other animals?
- Dinosaur names are long! Turn to the list in the back of the book and review it together. Show the students how long dinosaur names are made up of smaller "root words" from other languages. Write out the name triceratops on the board and ask students to think of other words that have the Greek root word "tri," like tricycle or triangle. If students discovered a new dinosaur in the school playground, what would they call it?

For older students (3rd and up):

- Revisit student predictions from the pre-reading discussion. What predictions were correct? Did *Dinosaurs Can Be Small* surprise them?
- Take a second look at student responses to the pre-reading discussion questions:
    - What is your favorite dinosaur? Why?
    - How do scientists know what dinosaurs looked like?
    - Why did dinosaurs go extinct?

  Talk as a class about how these questions are connected to the book.
- Ask students to pick their favorite dinosaur from this book and compare it to its small or big counterpart. How are they similar? How are they different? Why do they prefer the smaller over the bigger or vice versa?
- The dinosaurs in this book thrived in many different environments. How did their size affect their ability to survive in their environments? Being small is an adaptation—a way that something is better suited to its environment. What are some other dinosaur adaptations in this book?

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Activity Kit

Writing Connection: If I Were Small

Name:

Date:

If I were as small as a Compsognathus, I would eat . . .

If I were as small as a Compsognathus, I would live in . . .

If I were as small as a Compsognathus, I would . . .

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Activity Kit

Writing Connection: If I Were Big

Name:

Date:

If I were as big as a T. rex, I would eat . . .

If I were as big as a T. rex, I would live in . . .

If I were as big as a T. rex, I would . . .

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Activity Kit

Science Connection: Sort the Dinosaurs

Name: _____

Date: _____

Scientists sort dinosaurs into categories based on what they have in common. Can you group these dinosaurs according to their category? Cut out the dinosaurs on the next page and glue or tape them into the category box below!

LONG-NECKED	HORNED
DOME-HEADED	MEAT-EATING

Brontosaurus

Compsognathus

Microceratus

Magyarosaurus

Micropachycephalosaurus

Pachycephalosaurus

Triceratops

Tyrannosaurus

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Activity Kit

Word Search

Name: _____

Date: _____

E S B U D L T Y B
T K R M I T P R A
A U H E N E C K S
O L T R O E T E M
C L A W S T O R A
I R E X A H K A R
N D G W U L O N I
S L H O R N S K N
H U R E P T I L E

DINOSAUR
METEOR
TEETH
HORNS
NECK
CLAWS
SKULL
MARINE
REPTILE