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The Dinosaur Question

Do dinosaurs still exist?

In this episode we discover that a dinosaur is a prehistoric reptile that first appeared over two hundred and thirty million years ago. Theropods are a group of dinosaur that were a lot like birds, including the T. rex and Philoraptor, who laid eggs and had feathers. They walked on two legs and had three forward pointing toes, just like cassowaries and most birds. Birds and theropod dinosaurs both came from the same ancestor. That means birds are the last surviving dinosaurs. They may not look like T. rex's or Philoraptors, but dinosaurs do still exist. They're birds!

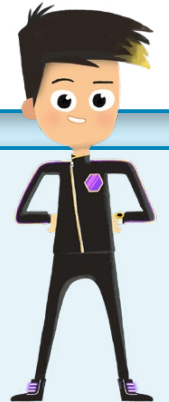
Wonder some more ...

1. Which dinosaur species laid eggs?
2. What is a cassowary?
3. What colour eggs do cassowaries lay?
4. Which dinosaur species had four legs?
5. What other [prehistoric reptiles](#) lived on Earth?
6. What is a palaeontologist?



Time to explore...

- **MAKE DINOSAUR FOSSILS:** Explore the job of a palaeontologist by digging for dinosaur fossils! Press small skeleton dinosaur toys into balls of rolled salt dough, bake in the oven and then bury in a sandpit for children to discover.
- **CONSTRUCT A 3D MODEL:** Scaffold creativity and engineering skills by inviting children to build a dinosaur model using craft materials (recycled paper towel rolls & sultana boxes, straws, pipe cleaners, pop sticks, masking tape, feathers, coloured cardboard, textas). Refer to factual picture books about dinosaurs and identify different features to help inform their designs.



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Read and wonder...

- *Return of the Dinosaurs* (2016) by Bronwyn Houston
- *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Ugly Animals* (2020) by Sami Bayly
- *Dinosaur Day Out* (2018) by Sara Acton
- *How do Dinosaurs Eat their Food?* (2021) by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.1, 4.2, 5.2 and 5.3.



Early Education