

# TEACHER NOTES

## Science (Biology) - Animals

Identifying reasons for differences in dinosaur characteristics



### Contextual Summary

This is a curriculum skills-based Science resource that enables students to practise their skills of identifying biological characteristics, understanding differences between types of dinosaur, and hypothesising as to the reasons for differing physical features and characteristics - skills that are a core part of Science within the 2014 National Curriculum and, in Scotland, Curriculum for Excellence. The resource is aimed at lower and upper key stage 2.

The task links to some specific locally-found species featured at Dinosaur Isle museum, thus ensuring relevance on the visit for students in key stage 2. Questions have been chosen because they link directly with the key curriculum areas.

### Task Implementation

It is suggested to teachers that they introduce the topic before the visit, so the subject matter is familiar and they have an understanding of physical characteristics in animals and why they are important as well as why they may vary within a species. They could have looked at other species of animal and identified differences in characteristics and reasons for this.

If prepared, students should be keen to find the answers to the questions, and may have already researched / guessed at some of the possible answers in their suggested pre-visit research.

This task could also be used as a follow-up task to compound learning, or as a pre-visit research task.

### Ability Levels

There are 3 versions of this resource, one mixed ability resource for upper key stage 2, and two resources for low and high ability at lower key stage 2. These could be adapted further by teachers if required, i.e. for SEN. For example, students could be tasked with giving fewer reasons, or responding to areas that interest them the most, or perhaps work in teams to find the answers. Alternatively, lower key stage 2 students could adaptively use the key stage resource above.

### Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Observation and identification of characteristics within a species
- ▶ Hypothesising as to reasons for differing characteristics
- ▶ Summarising skills

### Relationship to Curriculum

The above skills are required to be taught and practised as per the National Curriculum, for Science key stage 2 (lower and upper).

#### SUBJECT

Science

#### UNIT

Animals

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

- ✓ Pre-Visit
- ✓ On-Site Activity
- ✓ Post-Visit
- ✗ Peripheral Task



30-45 Mins

#### APPLICABILITY



KS2L, KS2U

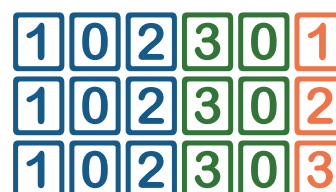


P4-P7

#### CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS

- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence

Applies to Resources numbered:



## Learning Opportunities

### Pre-Visit

This resource could be used as a pre-visit research task, but is designed to work in conjunction with the dinosaur features on display in the museum.

### During the Visit

Completion of the resource/s linked to this document:  
*Identifying reasons for differences in dinosaur characteristics*

Resource ID: **102301** (Upper KS2 mixed ability), **102302** (Lower KS2 high ability),  
**102303** (Lower KS2 low ability)

### Post Visit

This resource could be used as a follow-up task to compound learning or evidence their level of understanding after the visit.

Other follow-up tasks could include:

- ▶ Whole class discussion about the responses to the questions
- ▶ Groups presenting back their collated responses to the class
- ▶ Projects on a dinosaur type of particular interest

## Enrichment Opportunities

Students will experience a museum-environment and be able to see re-creations or skeletal reconstructions of types of dinosaur, helping them identify features, characteristics, and differences.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to observe and identify features of difference with regard to the physical/biological characteristics within a species.

For further details visit [www.edudest.uk](http://www.edudest.uk) and click:

- ▶ *Resource Finder* - to locate specific resources identified above
- ▶ *Venue Finder* - to learn more about education at this venue
- ▶ *Subject Finder* - to find other relevant Isle of Wight venues

