

Dinosaur Halls

BACKGROUND FOR EDUCATORS

Overview of Student Worksheets

Using worksheets, students observe three fossils in each hall to construct explanations about how dinosaurs used their body parts to help them:

- get food (Hall of Saurischian Dinosaurs)
- defend themselves or get attention (Hall of Ornithischian Dinosaurs)

These observations help students experience a **natural phenomenon**—dinosaur fossils have different kinds of specialized body parts: teeth, hands, headgear, and armor. This phenomenon can serve as an anchoring point in exploration and discussion as the students explore the **investigation question**: How did dinosaurs use their body parts to help them get food, defend themselves, or get attention?

Extension Ideas

Back in the classroom, students apply what they learned about structure and function. These suggested resources can be found at [amnh.org/learn-teach/curriculum-collections/dinosaurs-activities-and-lesson-plans](https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/curriculum-collections/dinosaurs-activities-and-lesson-plans)

- Observe a Dinosaur (3–5): Students observe living dinosaurs—birds—outdoors or online.
- Dinosaur Illustrations (K–5): Students review these black-and-white drawings to look for one or more dinosaurs they saw at the Museum. For the dinosaurs they saw at the Museum, they can identify the dinosaurs' features; for ones they did not see at the Museum, they can also examine the features and compare them to the ones they did see. Students can then color the drawings.

Correlation to Standards

This activity supports the following Next Generation Science Standards:

Disciplinary Core Ideas	LS1.A: Structure and Function Animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.
Crosscutting Concepts	Structure and Function The way in which an object or living thing is shaped and its substructure determine many of its properties and functions.
Science and Engineering Practices	Construct Explanations Use evidence (e.g., measurements, observations, patterns) to construct or support an explanation.