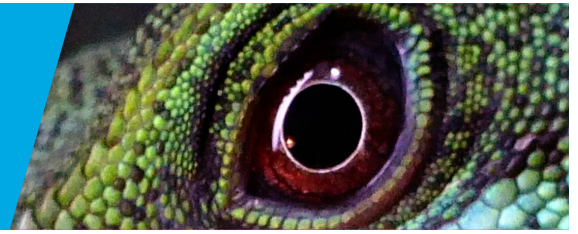


CURIOSITY AT HOME

DINOSAUR DRAWINGS



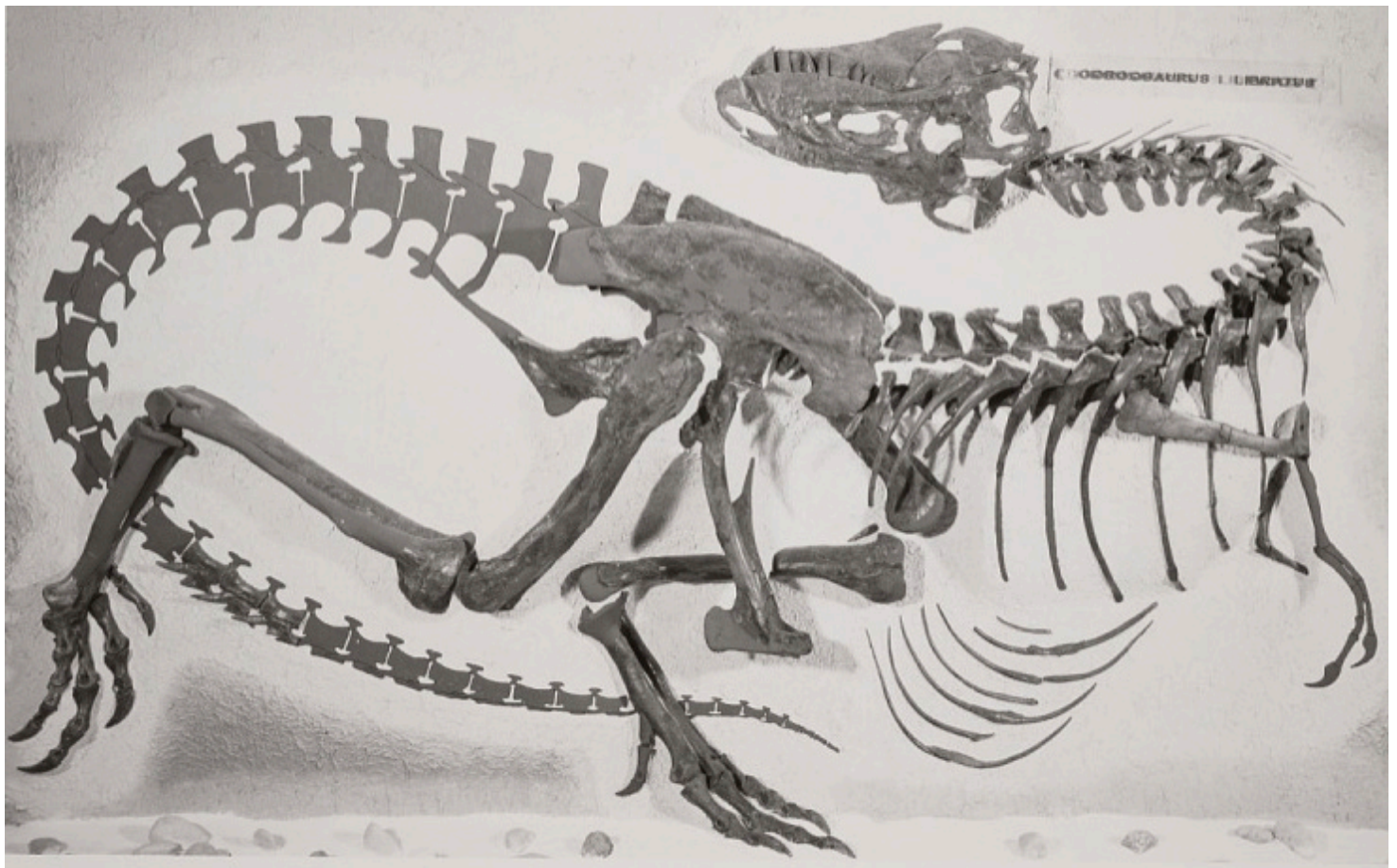
Nobody knows exactly what dinosaurs looked like, but by looking at fossil evidence, we can make predictions about their appearance. As people have discovered more fossils and the technology used to analyze those fossils has improved, predictions have become more and more accurate.

MATERIALS

- Something to color with (examples: crayons, markers, colored pencils)
- Science notebook or paper
- Something to write with

PROCEDURE

- Observe the picture of a dinosaur skeleton included below.



Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 95, Box 44, Folder 13, Image No. SIA_000095_B44_F13_001



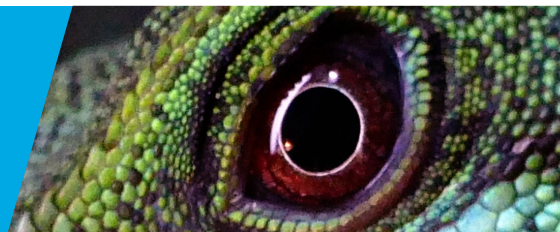
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DINOSAUR DRAWINGS



- In your science notebook, draw what you think this dinosaur might have looked like.
 - Feel free to draw your dinosaur in a different pose.
 - When you're deciding where to draw the skin, make sure to leave some space around the skeleton for fat and muscle.
 - Some dinosaurs had feathers. Do you think this one did? Draw some feathers in if you like.
 - Color in your dinosaur. Many animals blend in with their habitats (the place where they live) to help them sneak up on prey or avoid predators. Consider what your dinosaur's habitat looked like and whether it would have blended in with its environment to survive.
 - What other adaptations, or special features, can you imagine your dinosaur had?
- Invite a friend to draw a dinosaur from the same skeleton, and then compare. Did you come up with the same exact ideas, or were your drawings different?

EXPLORE MORE

- What do you think paleo artists of the future might think the animals of today looked like? Try creating a drawing of the modern animal below without knowing what it is.
- When your drawing is done, turn the page upside down to discover what creature the skeleton belongs to.

DID YOU KNOW?

Paleontologists, scientists who study prehistoric animals, have discovered the coloration of some species of dinosaurs. While not all dinosaur fossils can tell us what color a dinosaur was, some fossils have been found to contain **melanosomes**, which are microscopic structures that contain pigment that gives skin, feathers, and fur their colors.

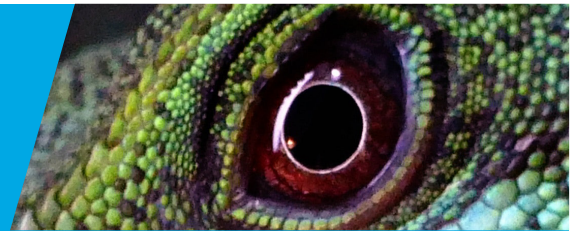


Smithsonian Institution Archives, Acc. 11-007, Box 019, Image No. MNH-4324



CURIOSITY AT HOME

DINOSAUR DRAWINGS



3–5 GRADE EXPLORATION

Explore the following questions and write your observations in your science notebook.

- Why do you think it is that we don't see dinosaurs anymore?
- Looking at these fossils, what predictions can you make about these dinosaurs' behaviors or appearances? What evidence do you have to support those claims?
- Paleontologists use fossil evidence to understand what dinosaurs were like. Can you think of any examples of things they could learn about dinosaurs from their fossils?
- What modern day animals have traits in common with dinosaurs?



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