



## **NAME-A-SAURUS**

**Primary Audience: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **CONCEPTS:**

Dinosaurs are named based on their unique features and/or the location where they were found.

Dinosaur names are created using Greek and Latin roots.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

Determine some of the special features of several dinosaurs by studying the roots in their names.

Create a name tag for themselves using Greek and Latin roots.

**KEYWORDS:** Dinosaurs; Nomenclature

### **MATERIALS:**

#### **Per participant:**

paper feature (footprint, egg, head, tooth)  
18-24 inches of yarn

#### **Per group of 6:**

3 permanent markers  
posters of dinosaur prefixes and roots  
bin to hold materials

### **PROCEDURES:**

How are the dinosaurs named? Scientists use Greek and Latin roots to name dinosaurs, plants, and animals. Listed on the posters are many prefixes and roots used to name dinosaurs. What does Triceratops mean? *Tri* means three, *cera* means horned, and *tops* means face. Three horned face. Ask the participants to identify the meaning of several more dinosaurs. Make up a description of a dinosaur and ask the participants to create a name for it.

Topic: Paleontology

Create a name for yourself using the Greek and Latin roots. Does your name include part of your real name? Does your name describe you? Write your name on one of the dinosaur paper features. Hang your name tag around your neck with yarn. Can you determine what the other names in your group mean?

Body Parts:

tail	caudia
no tail	anuro
arm	brachio
head	cephalo
horn	cerat or ceros
tooth	don or dont

jaw	gnathus
crest or ridge	lopho
body	masso
claw	nycho
face	ops
foot	pod or ped
wing	ptero
spine	spino

roof	stego
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Types Of Animals:

duck	anato
bird	avi or avis
fish	ichthyo
iguana	iguano
king	rex
lizzard	saur or saurus

Numbers:

one	mono
two	di or diplo
three	tri

Size:

slender	steno
thick	pachy
small	micro
large	mega or hadro
high	hypselo
heavy	bary

Other Describing Words:

crooked	ankylo
terrible	dino
backward	opistho
ridged	pacro
flat	plateo
ribbon	plesio
first	proto
slow	segno
fast	veloci
tyrant	tyranno
supreme	super
extreme	ultra