



World Animal Collection – Dinosaurs

Here's What You Get!

- 12 Dinosaurs (2 Tyrannosaurs, 2 Stegosaur, 1 Velociraptor, 1 Dilophosaur, 1 Spinosaur, 1 Dimetrodon, 2 Triceratops, 1 Ankylosaur, 1 Brachiosaur)
- 1 Water Hole
- 2 Trees, 3 Bushes, 3 Small Plants
- 9 Rocks
- 1 Volcano
- Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Pretend and dramatic play build skills in many essential developmental areas. Through play, children actively experiment with social and emotional roles, build self-esteem, nurture their imaginations, and develop language skills. Playing with realistic molded animals encourages children to talk, interact, cooperate, and create stories as they expand their understanding of the world.

The molded animals and accessories are rich with realistic detail that invite imaginative play. The World Animal Collection – Dinosaurs set addresses these Head Start Learning Outcomes and ECERS Guidelines:

Head Start Learning Objectives

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Goal P-ATL 11 Child shows interest in and curiosity about the world around him.

Goal P-ATL 13 Child uses imagination in play and interactions with others.

COGNITION

Goal IT-C 13 Child uses pretend play to increase understanding of culture, environment, and experiences.

ECERS

Nature/Science

25.5.1 Nature/science activities (realistic toy animals)

Suggested Activities

Setting the Stage

When you introduce the World Animals - Dinosaurs set to the children, have them identify each piece – Dinosaur, Plant, Rock, Water Hole, Volcano. Encourage them to discuss how the world was different when dinosaurs were alive. Dinosaurs lived a long time ago. Most of the world was very hot and there were many volcanos. Many plants looked different. Guide the children to understand there were no buildings, no cars, no people.

Encourage the children to set up their dinosaur scene and move the animals from place to place.

World Animal Collection – Dinosaurs (continued)**Meat or Plants?**

Encourage the children to look closely at each dinosaur. Does it have long, sharp teeth? It's a meat eater! Does it have small rounded teeth, or no teeth? It eats plants!

Group the meat-eating dinosaurs together. Meat-eaters are called carnivores. How are they alike? Children may note that they are all standing on two legs and have sharp claws. These body features help them run fast to find food.

Group the plant-eating dinosaurs together. Plant-eaters are called herbivores. How are they alike? Children may note that only one is very tall. This dinosaur ate leaves from big trees. Others are low to the ground. They ate small plants. These dinosaurs also have armored plates, spikes, and horns. These body features protected them from the meat-eaters.

Group the dinosaurs with small sharp teeth and some small rounded teeth. They ate small animals like insects or rodents. They also ate plants. They are called omnivores.

Ask the children what they eat. Do they eat meat like chicken, hamburgers, or hot dogs? Do they eat plants like corn, peas, apples, or bananas? Some children might be interested to look in a mirror to find their different teeth – sharp ones for meat, rounded ones for plants.

Fossils

No one has ever seen a real dinosaur. But we know a lot about dinosaurs because scientists called paleontologists study fossils – bones and footprints that tell us about living things from long ago.

Ask the children if they have ever made a footprint in mud or sand. Roll out some modeling dough. Gently push one of the dinosaur's feet into the dough so it makes a footprint. Encourage the children to study the footprint. Is it big or small? Is it flat, or does it have toes? Does it have claws? Invite the children to make their own fossils as demonstrated. Young paleontologists may enjoy discussing their fossils!



#DINOBUCK