

# Discovering Dinosaurs

*A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Book  
Word Count: 262*

## Connections

### Writing and Art

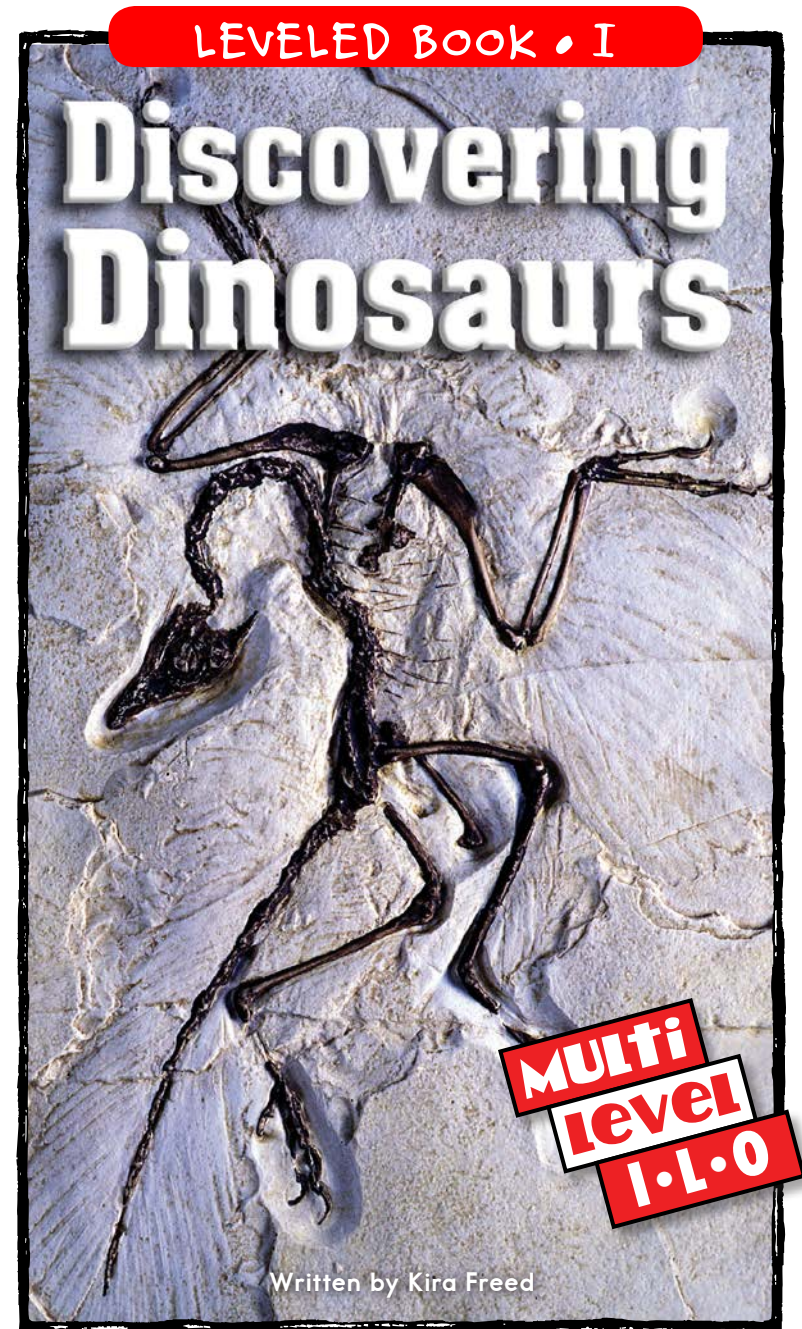
Imagine you are a scientist studying dinosaurs and have discovered new fossils. Draw a picture of your discovery and write a postcard home about it.

### Science and Art

Create a list of different types of fossils. Draw a picture of two examples and discuss with a partner what scientists can learn from these fossils.

Reading A-Z

Visit [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)  
for thousands of books and materials.



[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

# Discovering Dinosaurs



Written by Kira Freed

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

## Focus Question

What are fossils, and how have they helped us learn about dinosaurs?

## Words to Know

carefully

dinosaurs

fossils

museum

scientists

skeleton

### Photo Credits:

Front cover, title page, pages 5 (top left, bottom left, bottom right), 9 (both), 14 (top right, center left, center right, bottom left): © ArtToday; page 3: © Science Source; page 4: © R. Gino Santa Maria/Shutterfree, Llc/Dreamstime; page 5 (top right): © Brenda Kean/123RF; pages 5 (center), 8 (both): © Jupiterimages Corporation; page 6: © REUTERS/Rickey Rogers; page 7: courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division [LC-USZ62-127774]; page 10: © Wang shuhai/Imaginechina/AP Images; page 11: © REUTERS/Nacho Doce; page 12: © Jaroslav Moravcik/Dreamstime.com; pages 13 (top left), 14 (bottom right): John Cancalosi/Alamy Stock Photo; page 13 (top right): INTERFOTO/Alamy Stock Photo; page 13 (bottom left): © Kevin Schafer/Corbis Documentary/Getty Images; page 13 (bottom right): © Tomas Bravo/REUTERS/Newscom; page 15: © iStock.com/Klaus Nilkens

Discovering Dinosaurs  
Level I Leveled Book  
© Learning A-Z  
Written by Kira Freed

All rights reserved.

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

### Correlation

#### LEVEL I

Fountas & Pinnell	I
Reading Recovery	15-16
DRA	16



## Table of Contents

Finding Fossils . . . . .	4
Learning from Fossils . . . . .	8
How Long Ago? . . . . .	14
Glossary . . . . .	16



Many fossils are on display in museums.

## Finding Fossils

How do we know **dinosaurs** lived on Earth?

We know because we have found **fossils** in rocks all over the world.

**Scientists** have found fossils of dinosaur bones, footprints, teeth, nests, and eggs.



tooth



footprints



bones



egg



skeleton

These scientists are **carefully** digging dinosaur fossils out of the ground. They will wrap up the fossils to keep them safe.

Then they will take them to a **museum**.



Scientists clear dirt and rock away from a leg bone fossil.



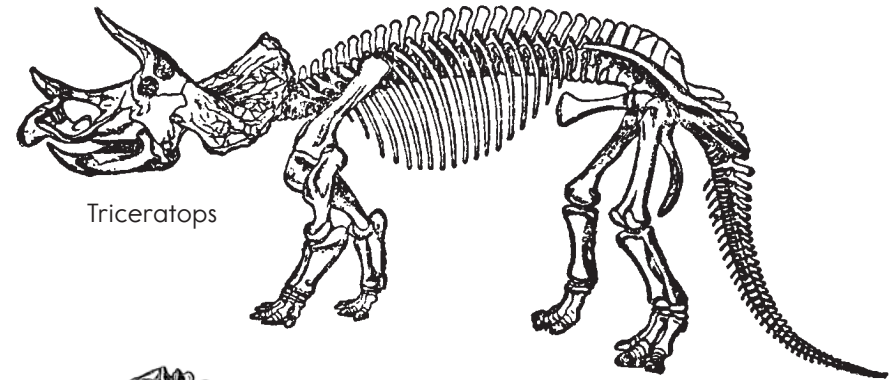
A scientist fits Triceratops bone fossils together.

At the museum, scientists will study the fossils.

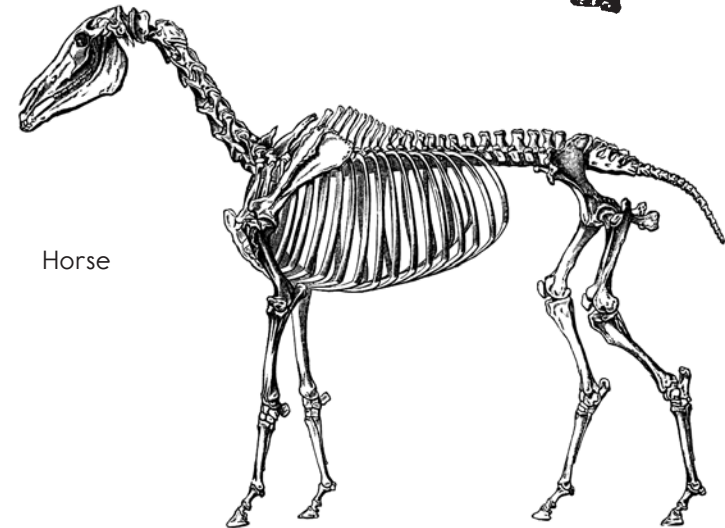
They try to fit bone fossils together to make a **skeleton**.

Some pieces of the skeleton might be missing.

Scientists use what they know about other animals to make pieces fit.



Triceratops



Horse

In some ways Triceratops (top) and horse skeletons look the same.

## **Learning from Fossils**

Scientists study other animals to learn about dinosaurs.

Dinosaur bones may be bigger. But many are shaped the same.

Scientists compare dinosaur bone fossils to other animals. They learn that some dinosaurs walked, and some flew.

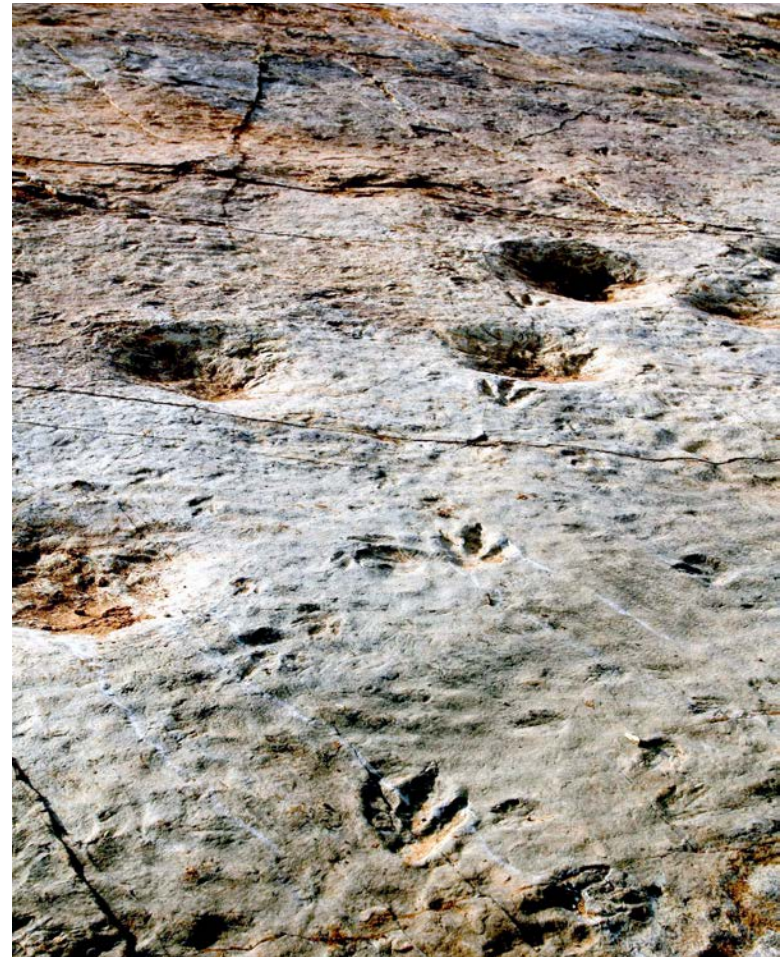


walking dinosaur



flying dinosaur

Scientists study fossil footprints to see how fast dinosaurs moved. Some dinosaurs moved very slowly. Some moved faster than humans.



Can you see the two sets of fossil footprints?



The sharp teeth of a meat-eating dinosaur

Scientists study fossil teeth to learn what dinosaurs ate.

Some teeth are sharp like the teeth of meat eaters.

Other teeth are flat like the teeth of plant eaters.

Scientists learn about dinosaur babies from fossil nests and eggs. Some dinosaurs may have sat on their eggs like many birds do.



A fossil nest with dinosaur eggs



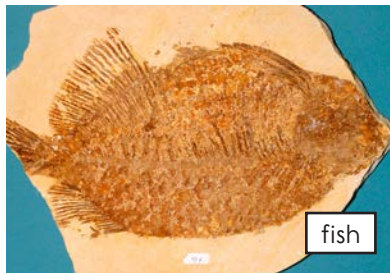
insect



plant

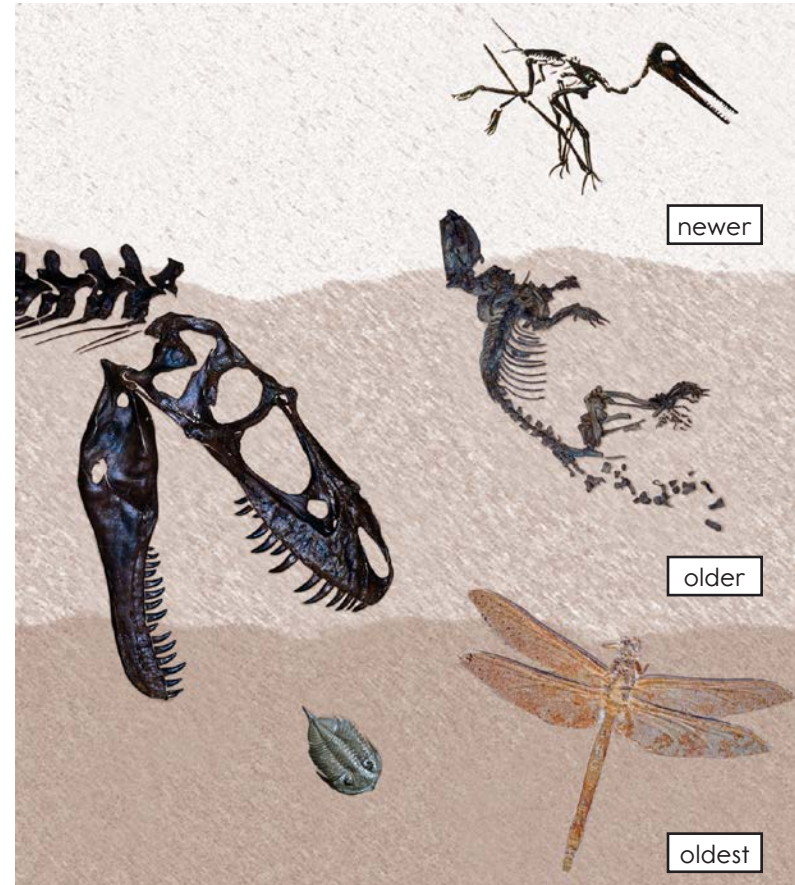


frog



fish

Scientists also find fossils of plants, fish, insects, and other animals. These fossils help them learn what Earth was like when dinosaurs lived here.



Layers of rock show where dinosaur fossils are found.

## How Long Ago?

Scientists study rocks where fossils are found.

Older fossils are deeper in the ground than newer fossils.



No one knows for sure why the dinosaurs disappeared millions of years ago.



Footprints of a large three-toed dinosaur

## Glossary

- carefully** (*adv.*) with care to avoid possible harm or damage (p. 6)
- dinosaurs** (*n.*) members of groups of reptiles that lived long ago (p. 4)
- fossils** (*n.*) remains of plants or animals that turned to stone over time (p. 4)
- museum** (*n.*) a building used to store and show things that are important to history, science, or art (p. 6)
- scientists** (*n.*) people who study one or more fields of science (p. 5)
- skeleton** (*n.*) the bones that support and protect the body (p. 7)