EDUCATION VISITS TO ROARR!®

As well as being a fun-packed day out for you school or group, ROARR! can be an excellent venue for a curriculum-linked educational visit. There are many subjects that could link to a visit including science, history and citizenship.

Below are some ideas for how to get the best educational value from your visit. There are also 'Post Visit' work ideas on the following page. For further information and worksheets about dinosaurs, we have an Education Pack, entitled 'What is a dinosaur?', available. Contact Guest Information for more details.

Linking your visit to the National Curriculum

Downloadable Trails

The Dinosaur Adventure website has free downloadable trails available for you to print and use on your visit to the Park. These are available for Early Years or Key Stage 1 - 2 pupils, and focus on encouraging discovery and literacy.

Valley of the Dinosaurs

A winding trail through the woods, full of a whole host of prehistoric creatures! Ideal for comparing and contrasting, and also encouraging children to make discoveries about the dinosaurs.

Do you think this one was a meat eater or plant eater? Look at its teeth! Which dinosaur was the biggest?

The trail has a number of information panels listing the dinosaurs' name (with a pronunciation guide), their diet, as well as some interesting facts. The Dinosaur Trail also features Field Stations where the children can use their imagination, play acting 'Dino Rangers'.

Dinosaurs are a great way to introduce scientific concepts and vocabulary such as adaptation, camouflage, and predators/prey.

T.Rex Track

Neanderthal walk features a Neanderthal village, which can be used as a talking point about what life was like in the past.

What do you think it was like to not have electricity? Where would they have got their food?
What do you think their clothes were made of? What would it have felt like to grow up in this village?

The animals on Neanderthal walk (including mammoths and sabre-toothed cats) are good examples of extinct creatures that were not dinosaurs.

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Post visit ideas

What colour were the dinosaurs?
No one really knows, as fossils do not give us this kind of information. Draw some outlines of dinosaurs but do not colour them in. The children can find pictures of different habitats (forest, desert, grassland, marsh etc) and colour in their dinosaurs to be best camouflaged against their chosen habitat. Maybe you could also find some pictures of what the world looked like when the dinosaurs roamed the Earth?

Food chains
Create a prehistoric food chain using some of the dinosaurs that you saw on your visit. The children can research the foodchain using books or the Internet and draw the pictures themselves.

Create a timeline
Create a timeline around the top of the classroom using a roll of paper. Using photos you have taken on your visit or pictures the children have drawn, decorate the timeline with the dinosaurs and other creatures that you saw. There is a good example of a 'Dino timeline' in the Encounter Barn at ROARR! to give you some ideas.

Guess Who?
After your visit to the park, the children could pick an animal or dinosaur that they saw and describe it to the rest of the class. The class have to 'Guess Who' the child is describing. Maybe you could put some helpful tips on the board such as 'how big is it?' or 'what colour is it?' to help them describe it effectively.

Story time
Dinosaurs and prehistoric times are great fuel for the imagination! Ask the children to write a story about living in a Neanderthal village, or travelling back in time to the time of the dinosaurs. It may help to put some 'Dino vocab' on the board, as some words will be tricky to spell.

Letter writing
We always enjoy receiving letters from schools who have visited, usually saying what they enjoyed most, or what their favourite dinosaur or animal is - in fact we usually display them on our office wall! Again it may help to put some 'Dino vocab' on the board, as some words will be tricky to spell.

Design a Dino!
The children can design their own dinosaur, but it must have adaptations for a chosen habitat, diet and locomotion (e.g. flying/swimming). Perhaps put a choice of habitats/diets/locomotion on the board.