

Dinosaurs! Writing and Drawing Activity

This activity introduces the students to the critical components of any story in the universe: The W5s! Plus gives them hands on experience creating a book.

This project is in three sections: Writing the Story, Illustrating the Story and Assembling the Pieces.

After the PowerPoint presentation, teachers can continue the learning experience by helping the class write and illustrate a story about dinosaurs. Using the W5s, the class creates a short story which the teacher writes on the board. Using the format below, (Writing the Story), to instil the W5s in the students' minds, the teacher helps them write the story. Remind the class that every story needs a beginning, middle and end. Explain fact versus fiction in story and that they are creating a story that is fiction, like a fairy tale, so that their characters can do amazing things such as talk, dress up, have a party, etc.

This finished story is 'creatively' typed out by teacher in story form and photocopied in two halves for each student. (See Page 3.) One 8 X 11 page for first half of the story, with the conclusion on a second sheet. The story pages will be used in the 'Assembling the Pieces' section.

1. Writing the Story

The teacher writes the W5s, (When, Where, Who, What and Why), in a column on the left side of board leaving room to write answers beside each word. The students are asked to answer each 'W', and this answer is written beside the appropriate 'W'. These answers will form the basis of the story with the teacher writing it out in paragraph form. The 'WHAT' answer will form the bulk of the story. The story will be approx. 175 words long. This is typed into a word document using a large font, such as Times New Roman 22, and this is then printed out on two sheets of 8 X 11 paper.

The process will run something like this:

WHEN: (Teacher asks, "When does the story take place?" Students give a time period, often crazy, but it's their story. Eg: 120,000,001 years ago.)

WHERE: (Teacher asks, "Where will our story take place?" Students think of where this will happen - a jungle, cave, volcano, town, island, Dinoland, etc. Volcanoes work well for the illustration part of this exercise and may be suggested. See 'Illustration Section' below.)

WHO: (Teacher asks, "Who will be in our story?" Students list a variety of dinosaurs. They need to be identified by type- Stegosaurus, Diplodocus, etc., and can be personified. Teacher distinguishes between herbivore and carnivore. Keeping it to approx. five characters helps with the illustrations. See 'Illustration Section' below.)

WHAT: (Teacher asks, "What is happening to these characters?" Students create a scenario where the characters interact. The story must have a beginning, middle and end – usually there is a big finish, the volcano explodes, asteroid hits, everyone makes it home safely, followed by the dino's having a party.)

WHY: (Teacher asks “Why did the dinosaur characters do what they did?” Students must answer why for all the characters. e.g.: Why did the baby dino get lost? *He wandered out of the sand box into the forest.* Why did the parents look for the baby? *The parents loved the little guy.* Why were there other dinosaurs helping to find the baby? *The mom and dad couldn't do it alone.* Why didn't the carnivores eat the mom and dad? *They are friends.* Why are they friends? *Because the herbivore dad saved one of the carnivore's from drowning.* ETC. And of course at the end...Everyone goes to the party. ☺)

2. Illustrating the Story

Students then draw one of the scenes from the story they created, making sure they reflect the characters and events in the story. Remember the volcano? Kids love anything that goes boom! This should be done on 11 X 14 manila tag with image done lengthwise. (See page 4.)

Teacher prep involves cutting out props such as trees, lakes, and clouds from coloured construction paper for each student to glue onto illustration if they choose. Plus photocopying a sheet of small dinosaur pictures for students to colour and cut out to use in diorama they are creating. (There are great ones on internet with multiple small pictures of dinosaurs on one 11 X 14 page.) The scene is filled in by students gluing on trees, clouds, etc. and drawing volcanoes, trees, birds, caves, etc. They then add dinosaur figures they have coloured and cut out from photocopied sheet to illustrate the story.

3. Assembling the Pieces

Once the students finish their illustration they collect the two halves of the printed out story and prepare to put it all together. The student then chooses two pieces of coloured 11 X 14 Kraft paper which have been folded in half by teacher to create a crease down the middle of each sheet. Laying the Kraft paper side by side, the illustration is pasted onto both by gluing to the crease line on each sheet, leaving a wide section of Kraft paper on each end. The two printed story pages are glued to these overhanging outside pieces with the crease acting as a natural fold. These outside sections with story are then folded in to create a cover which has a split down the middle. Students write their story title on the outside on the left with students name written on right side of folded over Kraft paper. (See Page 4.)

Their Dinosaur Story Book is now complete.

Below are illustrations of two kindergarten class stories and the authors with their completed books.

Samples of Kindergarten Stories

3 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8 1 9 1 10 1 11 1 12 1 13 1 14 1 1 16 1 7 1 8

The Dinosaur Picnic Party

One burning hot day 200,000,000-years-ago, there were some herbivore dinosaurs who were friends. There was a Stegosaurus, a Diplodocus, and a Triceratops. These plant eating dinosaurs wanted to go on a picnic. They started walking in the forest but were soon lost.

Suddenly, a Tyrannosaurus, a Pterodactyl and a Velociraptor jumped out of the bushes and frightened the herbivores. The plant eaters knew that these dinosaurs were ferocious meat eaters.

The herbivores were all very scared, but then the meat eating dinosaurs did something strange. They offered to show the herbivores where there was a great campsite.

The plant eaters followed the carnivores to a blue lake where there was a nice beach to make dinosaur sandcastles. There was also a trampoline to jump on.

All the dinosaurs became friends and had pizza, hot dogs and a cake. They also had music and presents for everyone.

The pterodactyl was so happy he flew into the clouds and touched the sky.

3 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8 1 9 1 10 1 11 1 12 1 13 1 14 1 1 16 1 7 1 8

Attack of the Bad Dinosaurs

One day 200,000,000-years-ago, there were some herbivore dinosaurs who lived near a volcano. There were different kinds of these plant eating dinosaurs: a Brachiosaurus, a Diplodocus, a Triceratops and a Stegosaurus.

These peaceful dinosaurs had babies and eggs not yet hatched.

One night two sneaky carnivores crept into the place where the herbivores were sleeping. There were very bad meat eating dinosaurs – a Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Pterodactyl.

These meat eaters tried to steal the baby dinosaurs and eggs so they could eat them.

The Tyrannosaurus Rex made some noise and the plant eating dinosaurs woke up. They started to fight the carnivores. The Triceratops used its three horns to poke the T-Rex and the Stegosaurus hit the big meat eater with the spikes in its tail. The Brachiosaurus spit poison venom at the Pterodactyl.

All the herbivores worked together to chase the bad dinosaurs across the river and they were never allowed back.

With everyone safe, the Herbivores and their babies had a party to celebrate.

Finished Book

