



Could a Tyrannosaurus Play Table Tennis?

By Andrew Plant

As You Read:

- Be sure to read the information at the bottom of each page that includes the era, continent, length, and what that dinosaur ate. Use this as an opportunity to teach children about the seven continents, and to teach the meaning of carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore (flesh eater, plant eater, flesh and plant eater).
- Discuss the different sports that are introduced on each page. Talk about how crazy it would be for a Tyrannosaurus Rex to play table tennis!
- On the last page of the book, there is information on three sports that children may not be familiar with: cricket, netball and quoits. Explain these sports and use this as an opportunity to talk about the author being from another country (Australia). Explain that these sports that are not commonly played in the U.S.
- Explain the meaning of words they may not know such as "zeppelin" and "yachting."

Activities:

Language

- Make a class alphabet/food dinosaur book. For example: Would a Tyrannosaurus eat tortillas? Brainstorm ideas as a class.
- Buy dinosaur memory cards. Challenge students to say the names of the dinosaurs as they turn the cards while looking for a match.
- Challenge students to be able to identify five dinosaurs by name.
- Super challenge: tell what they ate and on which continent they lived.

Science

- Chart the three types of dinosaurs: carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. Have children list the different dinosaurs into the appropriate category.
- Using a tape measure, measure the size of one of the dinosaurs in the book. Mark the length on the playground with chalk. Have the children stand on the line so they can see how many children it takes to make that one dinosaur!
- Place bones in the sandbox and have a dinosaur dig. (You'll have to collect chicken bones and other types of bones, clean them and let dry before burying in the sandbox.)

Math

- Put up a graph of the different sports mentioned in the book. Ask students to write their name under each sport he or she has played. Tally the totals and discuss with the class. Create math questions: which sport has been played the most? The least?
- Guessing Jar: Place dinosaur shaped cookies in a jar. Ask students to guess how many there are. Count them as a class. Count by 2's or 5's for added learning. Share the cookies with the class. The winner can have extra!

Art

- Dinosaur handprint. Paint child's hand. Hold the child's middle and ring fingers together and press firmly onto paper.
- Dinosaur fossil prints: press plastic dinosaur feet into clay. Let dry.