

STEAM STORY TIME AT HOME: DINOSAURS!

Activity 1: Make Fossils

Supplies:

- Air dry clay
- Toy dinosaurs

Prompt:

Fossils form when a plant or animal or a trace of it (such as a footprint) turns into rock over many years. We will make a pretend fossil much more quickly. Take a piece of air dry clay and flatten it until it is about a half inch to an inch thick. Place one of your plastic dinosaurs on the clay to create an imprint of its outline on the clay. This will make a cast of your dinosaur. Let the clay dry overnight. Now you have made a (faux) dinosaur fossil! Since this clay dries white, you can give it a more authentic fossil color with coffee or tea. Brew a strong cup of either drink. When it is cool enough, use a paint brush to paint your fossil with it. Remember to wait to paint it until the clay has dried completely.

Extended activity

Bury your fossils in sand or dirt then excavate! Remember paleontologists must be very careful to not break the fossils when removing from the ground. What tools could you use to be extra gentle to the fossils?

Activity 2: Dinosaur Bones

Supplies

- Cotton swabs
- Dinosaur shapes

Prompt:

Bones give bodies their structure. Without bones, people, animals, and dinosaurs would be blobs on the ground. Where do you think bones would go on the dinosaur to help give it its shape?

Extended activity:

Design a new dinosaur. Create its bone structure to give it shape. Then what qualities would your dinosaur have? Such as, in what kind of environment would it live? What does it eat?

Suggested Reading

- *Fly Guy Presents: Dinosaurs* by Ted Arnold
- *Edwina the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct* by Mo Willems
- *How Tall Was a T Rex* by Alison Limentani
- Browse J 567 in Non Fiction for a wide array of factual books and the Dinosaur Train Bin in the Preschool Room for story books.

Activity 3: Fossil-Dino Match

Supplies:

- Fossil puzzle pieces
- Dinosaur sheet

Prompt:

When paleontologists find dinosaur fossils, they must reconstruct the bones together and use what they see to figure out what kind of dinosaur it is.

Directions:

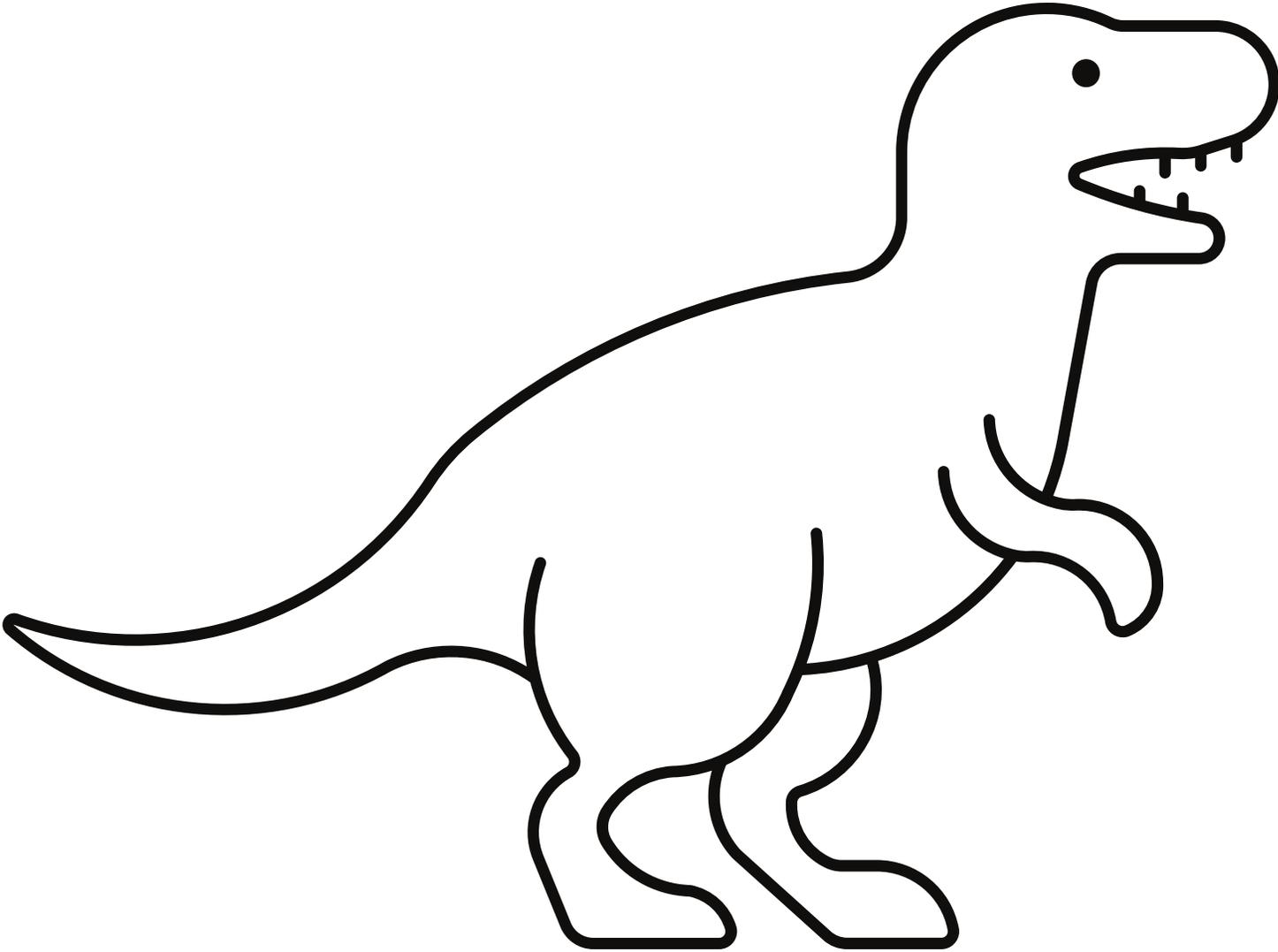
1. Cut out each dinosaur skeleton. Then cut each skeleton into 4 or 5 pieces.
2. Put together the puzzles, then try to match the skeleton to the dinosaur.

Extended activity:

Mix the puzzle pieces from all the dinosaurs together and see if you can separate the different dinosaurs.

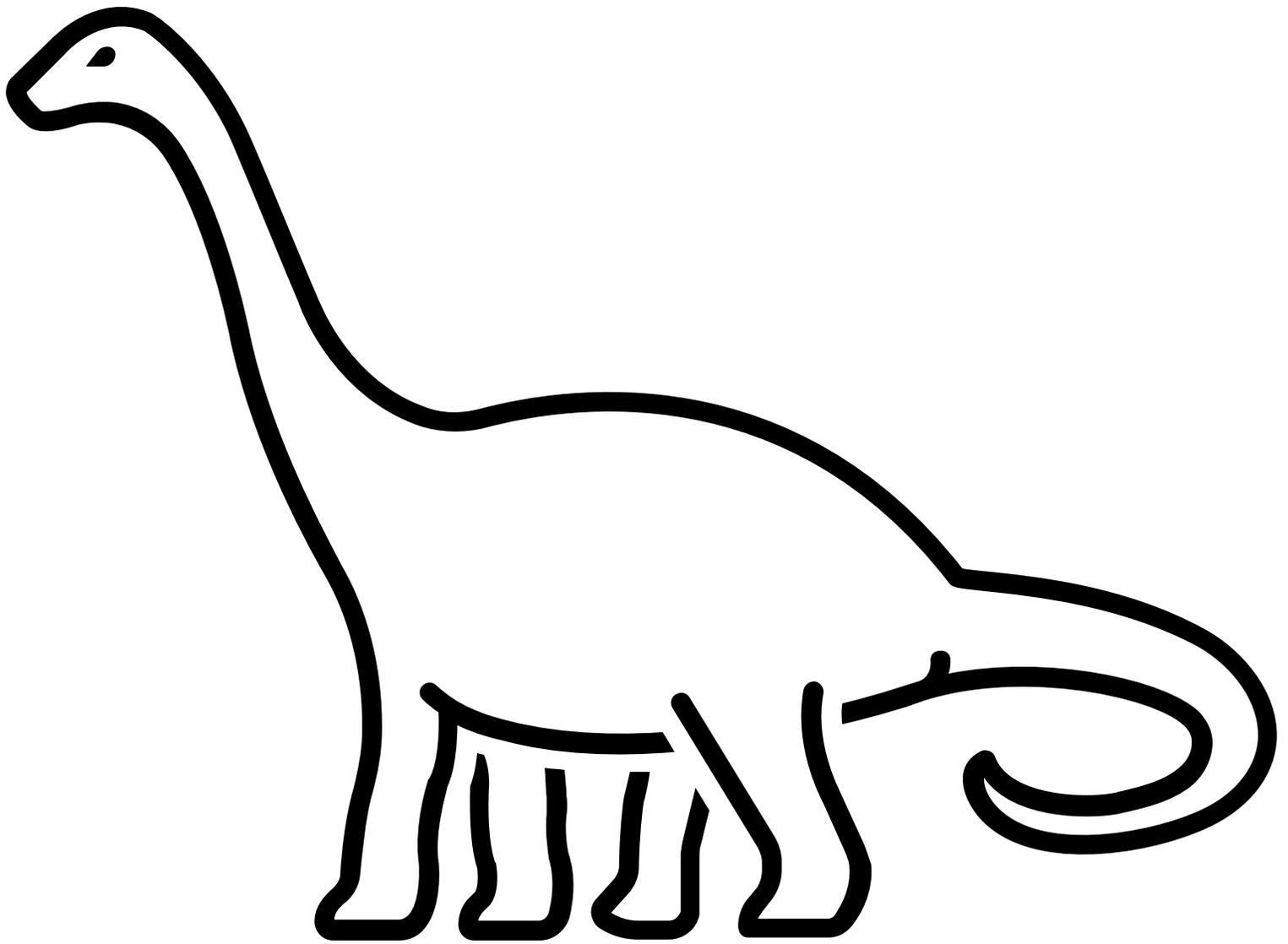
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Activity 2: Dinosaur Bones



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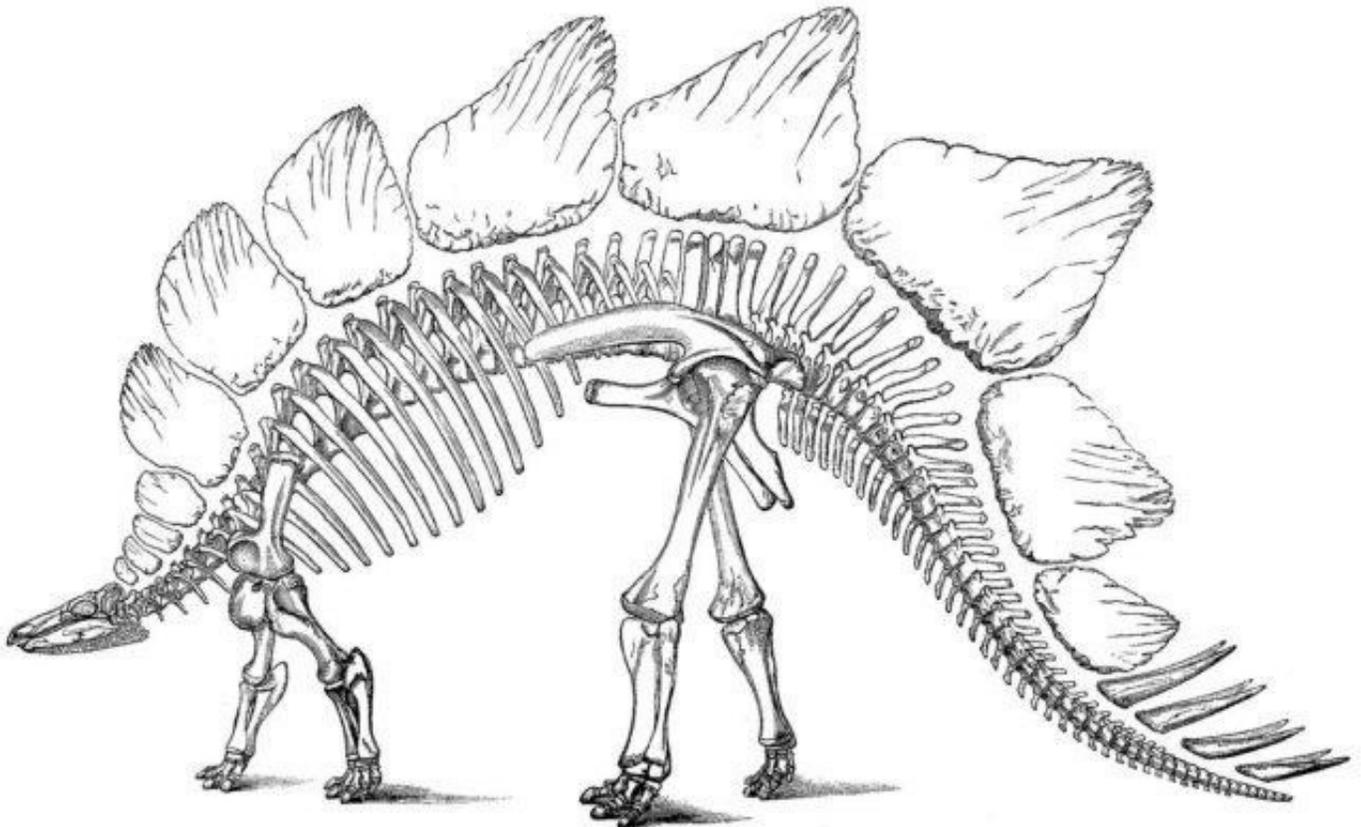
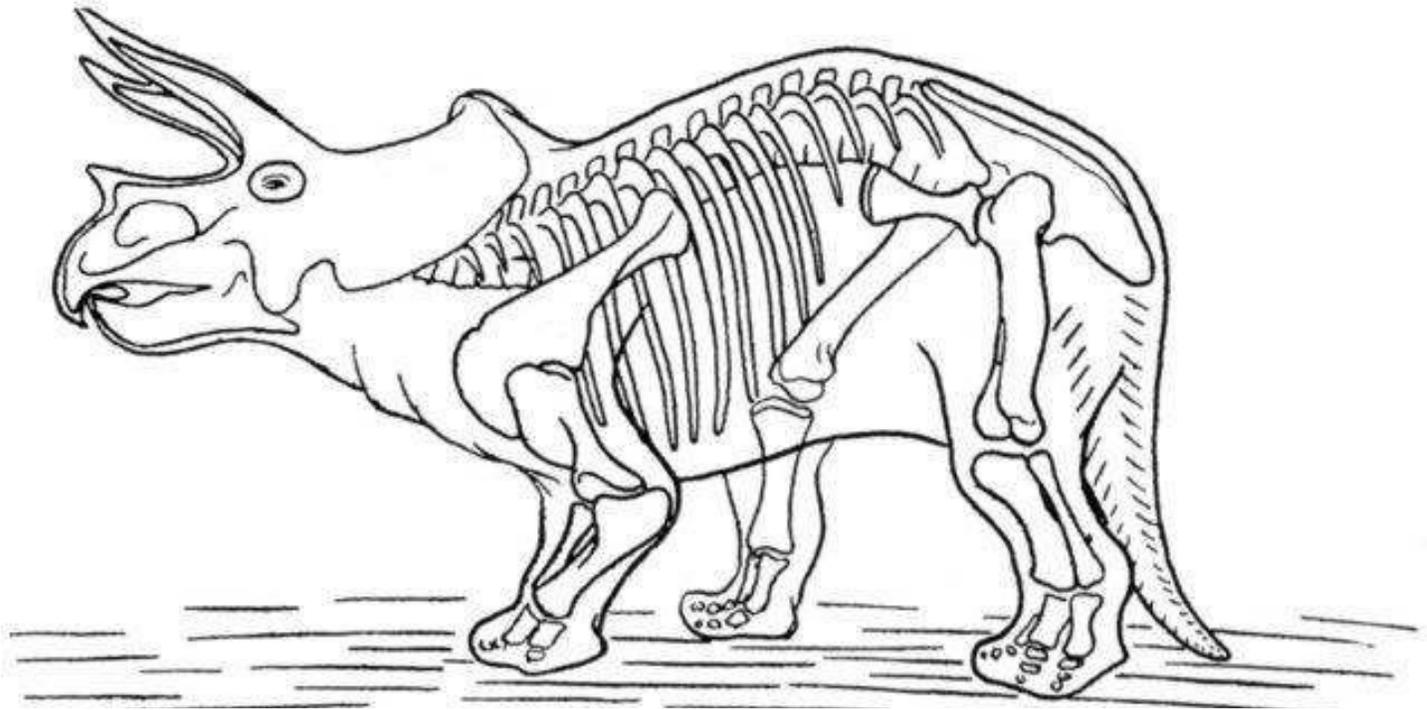
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Activity 3: Fossil-Dino Match



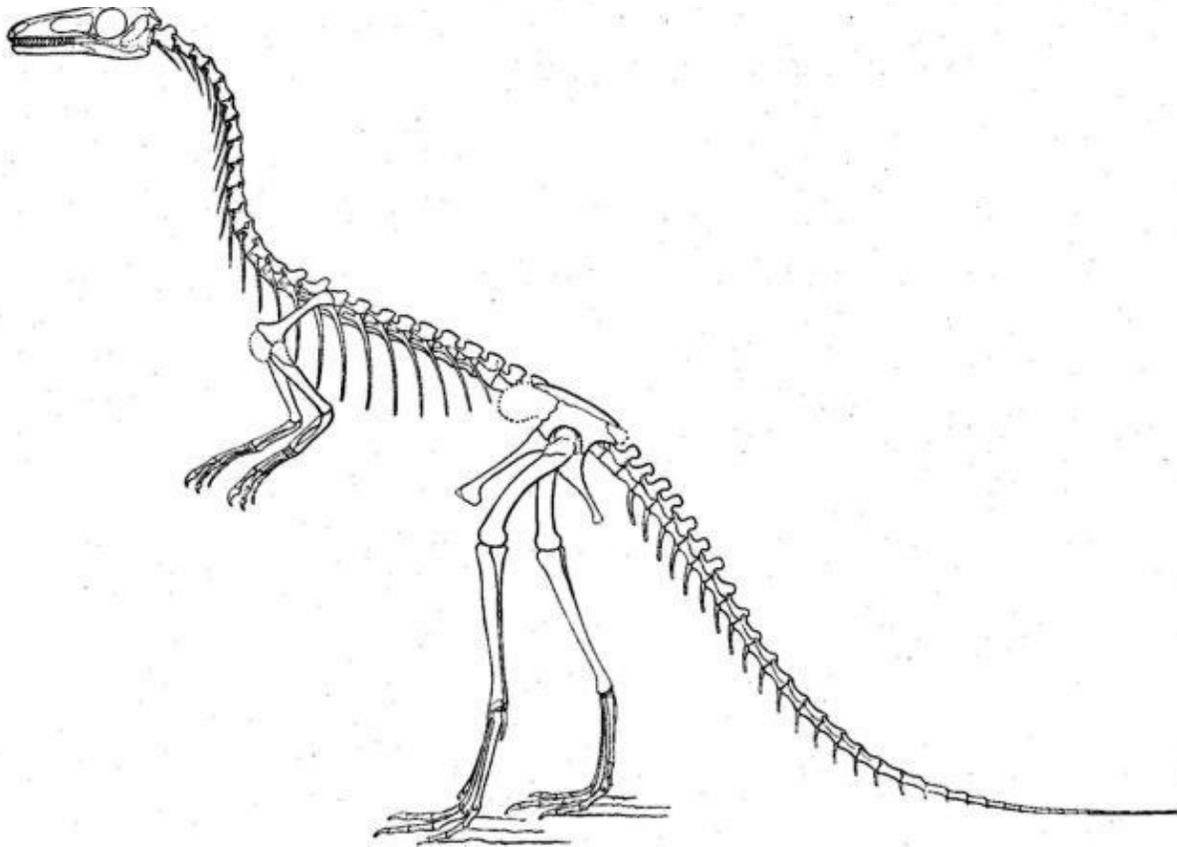
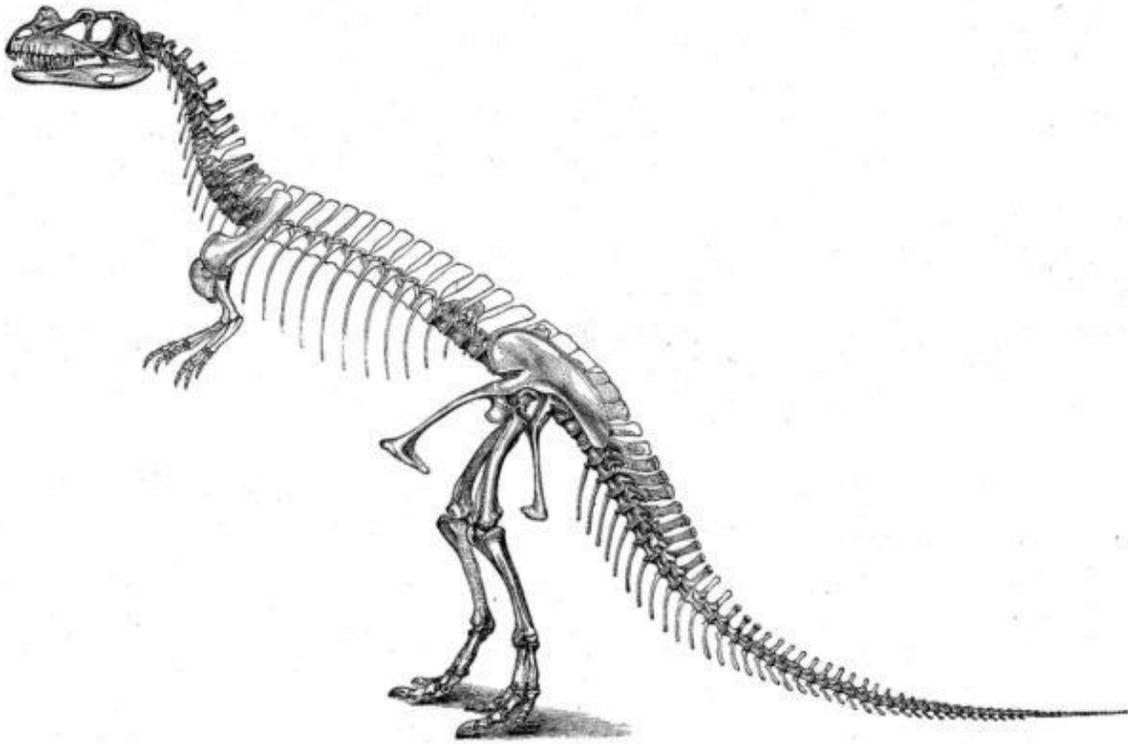
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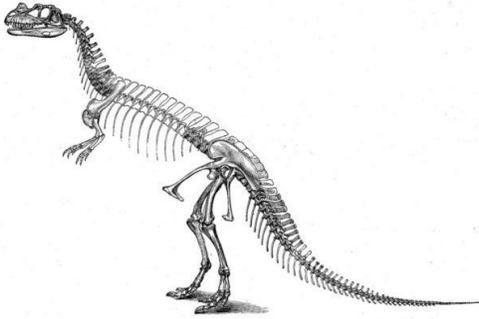
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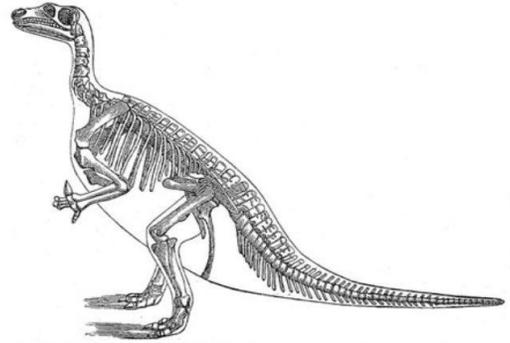


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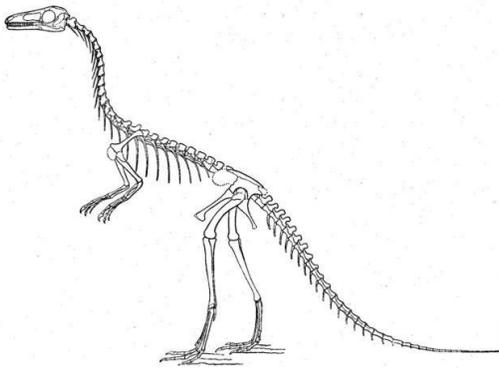
Activity 3: Fossil-Dino Match (Answer Key)



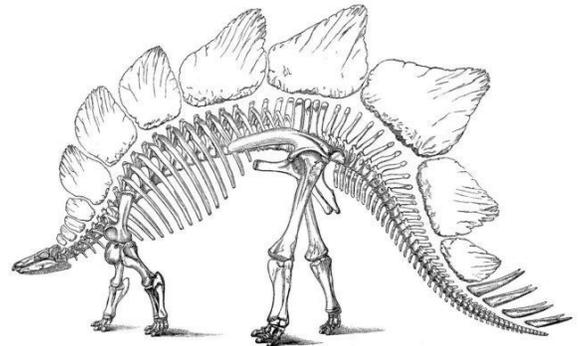
Ceratosaurus



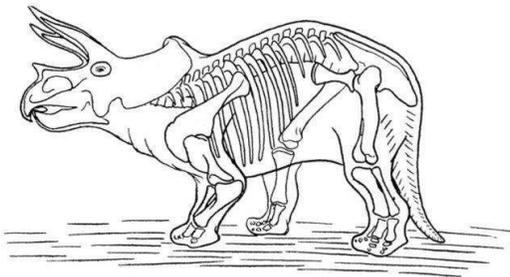
Iguanodon



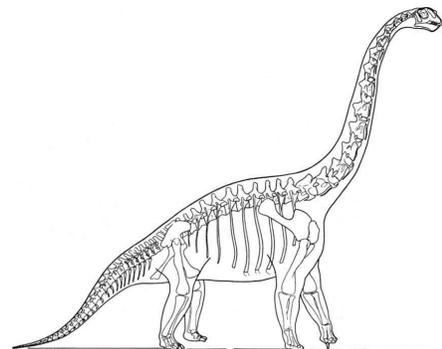
Compsognathus



Stegosaurus



Triceratops



Brachiosaurus