

## Create-a-Dino

Do you have a favorite dinosaur? Why is it your favorite? What do you like about it? Have you ever wondered how the dinosaurs got their names? For instance, what does *Triceratops* mean? The name “**Triceratops**” means “three-horned-face” because **tri** = three; **cerat** = horned; and **ops** = face (or head).

We assume that dinosaurs once lived in Indiana during the Mesozoic but we have no native dinosaur fossils! This is due to glaciers during the Ice Age that destroyed any evidence of dinosaurs left behind in our bedrock and sediments.

Scientists usually name dinosaurs in three different ways: by description, by where the skeleton was found or for a famous person or the person who found it. The *Triceratops horridus* is a description. The *Diplodocus carnegii* is named after Andrew Carnegie, the early 20th century millionaire who paid for the expedition that discovered that dinosaur. *Edmontosaurus annectensis* is named for Edmonton, Canada, where the skeleton was found. Sometimes, dinosaurs can be named using a combination of the methods.

### Materials:

- Paper and pencil or crayons
- Modeling clay or Play-doh (optional)
- Globe or map of the world (optional)

- Use the lists on the second page to figure out what the dinosaur names mean.
- Choose words from at least two of the lists to create a new dinosaur name.
- Choose one of the names you created and draw a dinosaur according to the description suggested by the name. You can even make the dinosaur from Play-Doh or clay. Draw as many dinosaurs as you want!

### SHARE:

- Find a home for your creations, like a fridge or bulletin board!
- Make up a story about where your dinosaur was discovered. Use a map to locate an interesting place for your dinosaur ‘dig.’
- Post pictures of you and your dinosaur drawing on social media using the hashtag **#MCMuseumFromHome**.



Ankylo - fused  
 Bronto - thunder  
 Dino - terrible  
 Diplo - double  
 Gravi - heavy  
 Mega - large  
 Micro - small  
 Pachy - thick  
 Plo - armored  
 Terr - earth  
 Tri - three  
 Veloci - fast  
 Xeno - strange

Derma - skin  
 Aqua - water  
 Avi - bird  
 Cerat - horned  
 Hemo - blood  
 Herb - plant  
 Hydra - water  
 Pter - wing  
 Steg - roofed  
 Styra - spiked  
 Celer - fast  
 Vibr - to shake  
 Plate - flat

Cephale - head  
 Dactyl - finger or toe  
 Ops - head or face  
 Gnathus - jaw  
 Nycho - claw  
 Opter - wing  
 Pod - foot  
 Raptor - thief  
 Rex - king  
 Saur - lizard  
 Spher - ball  
 Tyranno - tyrant

### What do these dinosaur names mean?

Tyrannosaurus Rex \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pterodactyl \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brontosaurus \_\_\_\_\_  
 Velociraptor \_\_\_\_\_



### Use words from at least two of the lists to create some new dinosaur names:

Example: Gravihemospher - Heavy blood ball

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