



SUPERSTAR

Disappearing Dinosaurs

Activity Card

This is Dina Digg's favourite dinosaur poem. She loves a mystery, and this is a big one!

Triceratops has one short horn,
and two as long as spears.

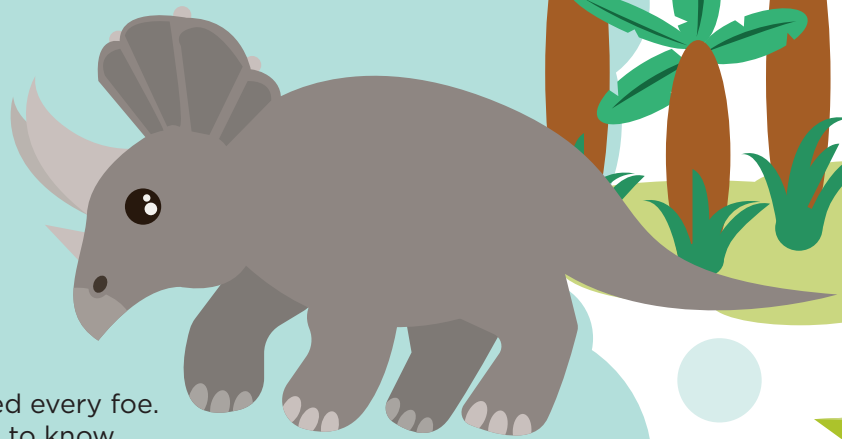
It dwelled near scores of carnosaurs,
and yet it had no fears.

Triceratops was dangerous,
impervious and strong.

The predators that challenged it
did not last very long.

Triceratops fought valiantly, and vanquished every foe.
So why it ever disappeared nobody seems to know.

Poem from *Tyrannosaurus Was a Beast: Dinosaur* by Jack Prelutsky.



Your challenge



Dinosaurs roamed the earth for 165 million years, but 65 million years ago they all became extinct. What happened to them? Why did they die out?

Plan a dino debate to discuss the different extinction theories.

Discuss



People have been arguing for years about what happened to the dinosaurs. Dina Digg has been collecting their ideas. Here are some of them.

A massive asteroid
hit the earth!

There was an
ice age.

The climate changed.
It got cooler and drier.

Huge volcanoes
erupted.

Disease wiped
them all out.

Aliens invaded from
another planet and
killed them all.



Getting started

Make a flyer advertising the discussion.

What will you call it?

'Who Dunnit to the Dinos?' 'Dinosaur Doomsday?' or something else?

Include some information about each extinction theory.

Make sure it sounds like a lively, interesting debate!

Are there any dinosaur books in the library? Can you find out any interesting information on the internet?

You could record your research in a grid like this one, with reasons for and against each theory.

	For	Against
Asteroid hit the earth		
Ice age		
Volcanoes erupted		
Climate changed		
Disease wiped them out		
Aliens invaded		

Test your ideas

What scientific evidence is there to back up each theory?

Why would each theory have led to the death of the dinos?

What more do you need to know?

Can you uncover any other theories?

Maybe it was a combination of factors that meant bad luck for the dinosaurs.

Not every creature died. Why did some creatures including frogs, crocodiles and some mammals survive?

Did any dinosaurs evolve into creatures that are alive today? Many scientists think birds are descended from dinosaurs. What evidence is there?

Share your ideas

Why not present your poster to the class, or use it as a wall display?

