

Naming Dinosaurs



Links with the Dinosaur Dreaming site:

Fossil evidence of a variety of dinosaurs has been discovered at the Dinosaur Dreaming dig site. Greek and Latin words are often used to name dinosaurs and these words often describe some feature of the dinosaur. Sometimes a fossil is named after the person who discovered it or the site where it was discovered. An example of this is *Koolasuchus Cleelandi*, a fossil of a giant amphibian that was discovered by Lesley Kool and Mike Cleeland near Inverloch. Often two words are combined to form one name for a dinosaur.

Links with the curriculum

This activity encourages students to think about how dinosaur names have been developed. The activity links with the Thinking, Science and English domains of VELS.

The start of the name is called the prefix . Some examples of prefixes are

Allo = other	Anato = goose	Ankyl = curved	Archeo = ancient
Brachio = arms	Bronto = thunder	Carn = meat	Cera = horns
Coelur = hollow	Compsog = elegant	Dino = terrible	Dromeus = running
Herb = plant	Ichthy = fish	Iguano = iguana	Nodo = knobbed
Ornith = bird	Ovum = egg	Plesio= near or close to	Proto = first
Pter = wing	Stego = plated	Struthio = ostrich	Suchus = crocodile
Tarbo = terrifying	Temno = to cut	Theco = sockets	Thero = beast
Trach = duck	Tri = three	Tyranno = tyrant	Velox = speed

The suffix is the end of the word. Some examples of these are

Cheirus = hand	Chus = claw	Dactyl = reptile
Docus = beamed	Dont or Don = tooth	Ischian = hipped
Lestes = stealer	Mimus = mimic	Nathus = jaw
Pod or poda = foot	Rex = king	Saur or saurus = lizard
Spondulos = vertebrate	Tops = face	Vore = eat

1. Use the information from these tables to work out the meaning of the following dinosaur names.

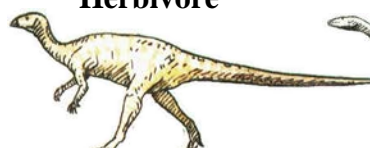
Theropod



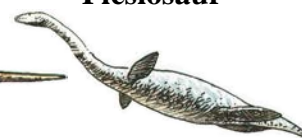
Nodosaur



Herbivore



Plesiosaur



2. Use the information from the tables to work out the meanings of the names of the following dinosaurs that have been found at the Dinosaur Dreaming site.

Pterosaur, Ornithopods, Carnosaurs, Ceratopsians, Ankylosaurus , Temnospondyls

3. Once you have found out the meanings of the names find an illustration or image of each dinosaur using a search on the internet to see if the name suits the appearance of the dinosaur.

4. Make up your own dinosaur name using combinations of the prefixes and suffixes above. Once you have a name draw a simple sketch of what your dinosaur would look like. Use the internet to see if such a dinosaur ever existed.