

Dinosaur Tracks



Links with Dinosaur Dreaming Site:

In 2007 a member of the Dinosaur Dreaming dig team found a large theropod dinosaur footprint in the sandstone at the Flat Rocks fossil site. This was just a single footprint so it was difficult to see if the animal was alone or whether it was walking or running. This footprint would have been formed when the dinosaur stepped in mud and the hollow left behind was filled with more sediments, which hardened into rock over millions of years.



Dinosaur footprint at the dig site

Australia's most extensive dinosaur trackways can be seen at Lark Quarry in Queensland. Here, thousands of dinosaur tracks tell an amazing story. A drawing of this trackway is found on the following page.

Links with Curriculum:

This activity encourages students to think about how fossil finds can be interpreted. The activity links with the Thinking, Arts and Science domains of VELs.

Procedure:

1. Examine the drawings of the dinosaur trackway on the following page.
2. Answer the following questions and for each answer give a reason or evidence for coming to each conclusion.
 - a. *How many animals made the trackway?*
 - b. *What kinds of animals do you think they were?*
 - c. *How many toes did each animal have?*
 - d. *In what direction did the animals move?*
 - e. *Did they change speed or direction?*
 - f. *What do you think might have happened to produce this trackway?*
3. Draw three pictures like a cartoon to represent what you think happened at the start, in the middle and at the end of the dinosaur trackway.

Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackway,
south of Winton, Queensland

