



Adopt-a-Dino project handout.

This in-depth project requires you to adopt a dinosaur! There are *three* required components for a successful project:

1. Write a *research paper*. Be sure to include
 - information about your dinosaur's anatomy, classification, and relative position in the food chain, and
 - information about the biological and environmental Mesozoic components that affected your dinosaur, including its Mesozoic range and ecosystem.
 - Optional: General discussions of the Mesozoic Era—including plate tectonics, environmental considerations, and extinction theories—are permitted, but should not comprise the majority of the paper.
2. Create a three-phase *representative scene* that illustrates the biological and geological knowledge gained from your research. Be sure to include
 - your dinosaur and the terrestrial plants and animals with which it interacted, and
 - aquatic and aerial phases with corresponding life forms.
3. Share your research about your adopted dinosaur in a five-minute *presentation*. You may include
 - PowerPoint slides or overheads, and
 - handouts.

General information about this project.

1. Visit our class website and sign up for your dinosaur adoption choice on the Discussion Board. Make sure that you
 - a. Post the name of your chosen dinosaur as the subject when you click on "Add New Thread."
 - b. Do not post a dinosaur that has already been chosen.
 - c. Do not post before 9:00 p.m. CST on _____.
2. The *quality* of your project will determine the score.

3. *Research papers* should be well-written, in-depth studies of a particular dinosaur. Use the following guidelines:
 - a. Research papers should be a minimum of __ typed pages, and a maximum of __ pages, not including appendices.
 - b. Use Times New Roman font, size 12. Use 1-inch margins for the top and bottom of your paper, and no more than 1.25-inch margins on the right and left.
 - c. Use correct grammar and punctuation. Proofread your paper!
 - d. A bibliography is *required*. The minimum number of references cited is _____. Please review what “plagiarism” means, and be careful to cite all material that is not your own.
 - e. Projects may be two-dimensional (no larger than 24 × 36 in.) or three-dimensional (no larger than 18 × 18 × 18 in.) representations. Bring your project to class on the day of your presentation.

4. *Projects* are judged on presentation and degree of detail.
 - a. Artistic skills are not a requirement.
 - b. Projects may be computer-generated images, sketches, or dioramas.
 - c. The best projects are those with maximum accuracy and attention to detail.

5. *Presentations* may be no more than five minutes long.
 - a. Please summarize your most interesting and important research findings.
 - b. Your classmates will “judge” your presentations, so plan on presenting a compact, interesting, and enjoyable summary of your dinosaur.
 - c. Presentations will be held on _____ and _____.

6. The date of your presentation will be randomly assigned.
 - a. If you plan to use PowerPoint, you must turn in your CD-ROM at the start of school on your presentation day.
 - b. Regardless of your presentation time slot, all research papers are due on _____.