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Activity Guide

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The Littlest Dinosaurs

ABOUT THE STORY

This book features dinosaurs that measured less than fifteen feet in length, and uses easily recognizable comparisons to help young readers visualize how big each dinosaur was.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

BERNARD MOST is the author-illustrator of many children's books, many of which were inspired by his own two sons, now adults. His book *My Very Own Octopus* received a *Parent's Choice* award. *If the Dinosaurs Came Back, Whatever Happened To The Dinosaurs?*, and *The Littlest Dinosaurs* were all IRA-CBC children's Choice award winners. *The Littlest Dinosaurs*, *Moo-Ha!*, *Oink-Ha!*, and *Pets In Trumpets* were all *American Bookseller Pick of the Lists*. Mr. Most won the Washington Irving Children's Choice award for *Dinosaur Cousins*. He lives in Westchester County, New York with his wife Amy, their two cats and several tanks of tropical fish.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to name some of their favorite dinosaurs. Point out the size of each. Explain that not all dinosaurs were big, and that this book is going to introduce them to some of the smallest dinosaurs.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- How long were the dinosaurs that were about the size of a slide and seesaw? (13 feet)
- What does oviraptor mean? (egg thief)
- Which dinosaur's fossils have been found all over the world? (anchisaurus)
- Which kind of dinosaur could have fit into your sneakers? (lesothosaurus)
- What did the leptoceratops mostly eat? (plant leaves)
- At eight inches long, the mussaurus was about the same size as what bedtime buddy? (teddy bear)

Vocabulary

In addition to the names of the dinosaurs themselves, the following words may be unfamiliar to the group. Write these words on the chalkboard and review their meanings. Then ask volunteers to use the words in sentences.

sauropods	duckbilled	studs	phoning
comfortable	head-butting	refrigerator	omelettes
intelligent	ankylosaur	luggage	grasping

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Dinosaur Match-Up

Reproduce the following lists of dinosaurs and dinosaur characteristics on a worksheet for each student. Have them draw a line connecting each characteristic to the dinosaur it best describes. You may want to have multiple copies of the book on hand for children to refer to.

Large brain	saltopus
Head-butting	psittacosaurus
Egg thief	bagaceratops
A good runner	stenonychosaurus
Small horned face	tylocephale
Longest name	lesothosaurus
Speedy	micropachycephalosaurus
Parrotlike beak	oviraptor
Littlest dinosaur	bagaceratops

Language Arts/Science/Research Skills: Dinosaur Dictionary

Divide class into small groups or pairs. Assign each group one of the dinosaurs featured in the book. Have them research the dinosaur for additional information. Write the name of the dinosaur and 3 to 5 key facts about it on a sheet of paper. Hole-punch and organize alphabetically into a class dictionary of dinosaurs. May wish to combine with Internet activity.

Mathematics: To the Playground!

Remind students that the author liked to compare the sizes of the dinosaurs to items we commonly see. Go to the playground and measure the slide and seesaw. Are they actually thirteen feet long? Give students a reference sheet that lists each dinosaur's name and length. Have the children use measuring tapes to find other items that are the same lengths as each dinosaur.

Language Arts/Creative Writing: Dinosaur Wish List

Have children write short essays about which of the littlest dinosaurs they would have most liked to meet and why. Read aloud to the class.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Any of the dinosaurs featured in the book

Research any of the featured dinosaurs to find additional information, such as when they likely became extinct, or where their fossils have been found.

Bernard Most

This author has written numerous books about dinosaurs, among other topics. Have students research to find out why he is so interested in dinosaurs, as well as general biographical information.