

Phase: Reception

Focus: The Land Before Time

Term: Spring 1

What I should already know?

Use all my senses in exploration and talk about what I see using a wide vocabulary. Begin to make sense of my own history. Comment on images from the past. Explore the natural world around me. Develop my own ideas and decide which materials to use to express them. Use talk to organise themselves and their play.



Magic Questions!

What is a dinosaur?

How do we know what dinosaurs looked like?

What did dinosaurs eat? What were the different types of dinosaurs?

Were all dinosaurs big?

What do you think dinosaurs sounded like?

What does an archaeologist do?

What is a fossil?

What happens when a volcano erupts?

Are dinosaurs still alive today?

What happened to the dinosaurs?

Key words and their meanings

Extinct	When a species doesn't exist anymore
Prehistoric	A term relating to the period before written records.
Fossil	Remains of plants and animals that lived long ago. Bones, shells, feathers and leaves can all become fossils.
Skeleton	The hard structure that supports the body of a living thing.
Omnivore	An animal or person that eats a variety of meat and plant-based foods.
Herbivore	An animal or person that feeds only on plants.
Carnivore	An animal or person that feeds only on other animals.
Archaeologist	A person who studies human history and prehistory.
Past	Gone in time and no longer existing.
Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust through which lava, volcanic ash and gases escape.

By the end of the unit I should ...

- Be able to learn new vocabulary and use it throughout the day in different contexts.
- Ask questions to find out more and to clarify their understanding.
- Participate in discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
- Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on what has been read in class.
- Be able to explore the natural world around me, recognising that some environments are different to others.
- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives.



How would you care
for a dinosaur egg?
What does a baby
dinosaur need?



This half term we will
learn lots of facts about
dinosaurs, make up our
own dinosaur poems and
create artwork based
around dinosaurs and
fossils. We will also
explore volcanoes!



What does an
archaeologist do?
What are fossils?

