

Summary

North American Dinosaurs: Troodon is a fact-filled book about one of the smartest dinosaurs to roam North America during the Cretaceous period. It includes many theories on how dinosaurs became extinct.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
asteroid	balance	Using questions and answers, Using inferencing	Text structure: Cause/effect, Use of supporting details and description	table of contents	captions
Cretaceous	flesh			bold glossary words	
lava	mammal			index	headings
reptile	sacs			text boxes	glossary
wounding				illustrations and photographs	

Standards: Science and Language Arts

- Understands biological evolution and the diversity of life
 - Knows that fossils provide evidence about animals that lived long ago
 - Knows that fossils can be compared to one another and to living organisms to observe their similarities and differences
 - Knows that changes in the environment can have different effects on different organisms
 - Knows that different people may interpret the same set of observations differently
 - Uses text organizers to determine the main ideas and to locate information
 - Summarizes and paraphrases information in texts
- Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about the Troodon. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words by having them examine the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- Read the definition for *reptile*. Can you name two *reptiles*?
- Read the definition for *Cretaceous*. About how many years was this period of time?
- Read the definition for *mammal*. Can you name two *mammals*?
- How are the terms *wounding* and *flesh* related?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **North American Dinosaurs: Troodon** is an informational text. Ask students to skim the headings and illustrations to determine how the information is organized. Then highlight genre characteristics

and text features that will support students in reading the text. Give each student the BLM Extension Activity sheet.

Highlight prompts:

- As you skim the book, notice the captions and text boxes that are written around the illustrations and photographs. Why do you think it is important to read these?
- Study the picture on page 4. Do you think this was a meat-eating dinosaur or a plant-eating dinosaur? What characteristics of the Troodon lead you to believe this?
- On your question and answer sheet, write down some questions you have about the Troodon.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner. Ask students to answer any of the questions that they wrote. Encourage them to write more questions as they arise.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **North American Dinosaurs: Troodon** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- Were you able to answer all of your questions? Tell what you learned. Did you write any new questions that you were not able to answer?
- Why do scientists believe the Troodon to be one of the smartest dinosaurs?
- Is the Troodon a meat eater or plant eater? Name two characteristics of the Troodon that lead scientists to believe it was a meat-eating dinosaur.
- Scientists do not have all of the fossil parts of a Troodon so they must infer certain characteristics and behaviors. What did scientists infer about how the Troodon looked and moved?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to complete their question and answer sheet. They may then write a short paragraph using the information that they learned.



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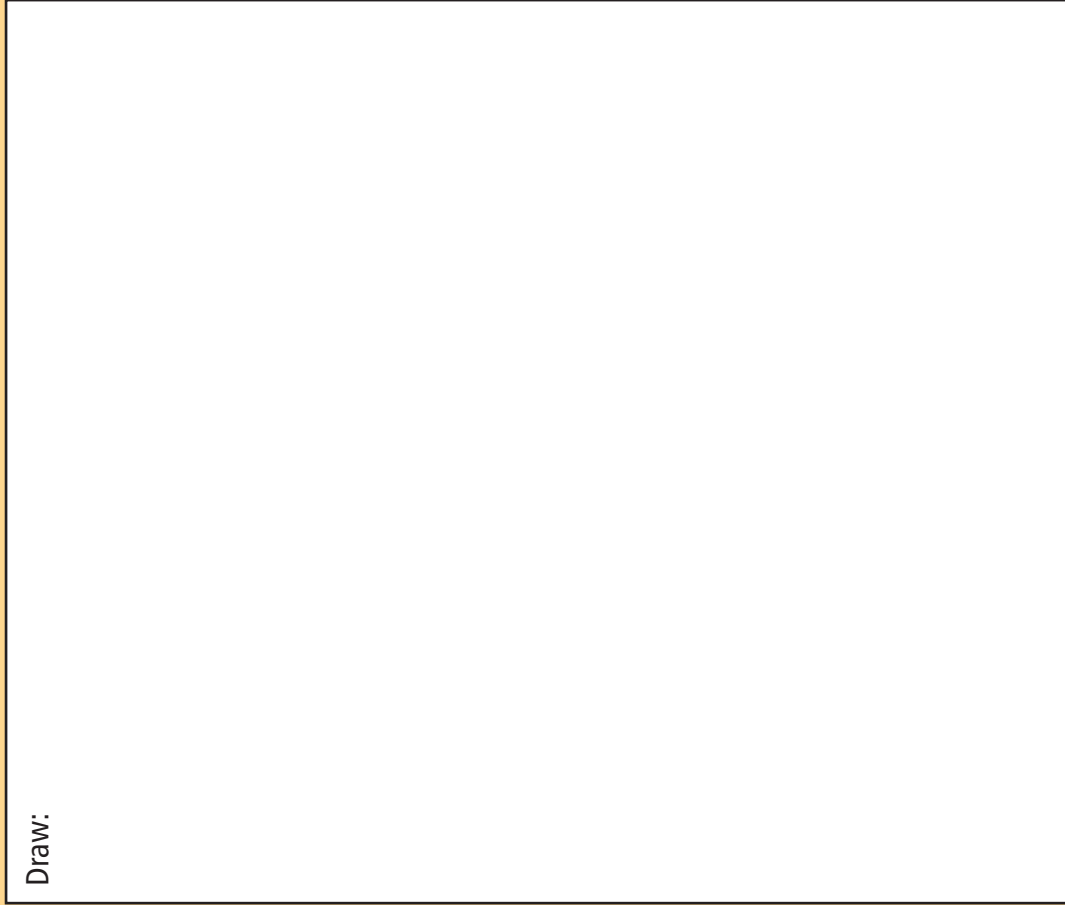
Name: _____

Date: _____

Questions and Answers

Directions: Illustrate one fact that you found to be the most interesting. Use the information that you learned to write a short paragraph about the Troodon.

Draw:



Questions and Answers

