

Lesson 3: Paleontology

Objective:

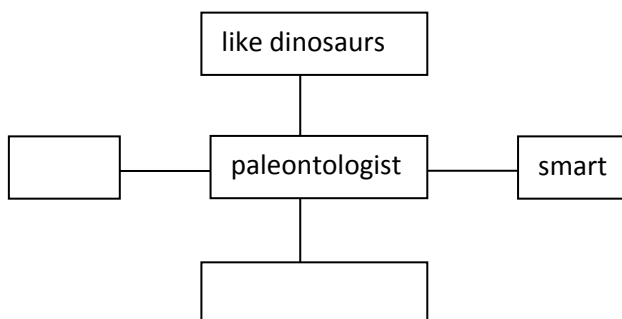
1. Students will learn that Paleontologists are scientists who study both dinosaurs and fossils.

Materials:

- Document: Herrerasaurus Picture
- Document: Vocabulary Cards (Used in Lesson 1.)
- Class copies of Document: Paleontologists

Procedure:

1. Raise the picture of the Herrerasaurus and ask students if they are able to identify it. Students may say that it is a dinosaur.
2. Explain that the dinosaur's name is Herrerasaurus. Explain that dinosaurs have specific names. Relate this to how different breeds of dogs have different names such as Yorkies, French Poodles, etc. Dinosaurs were not all the same and they have different names too.
3. Explain that Herrerasaurus was named after the person who discovered it in the country of Argentina. The man who made the discovery was Victorino Herrera. Explain that scientists who study dinosaurs and their fossils are "paleontologists."
4. Explain that fossils are the remains of dinosaurs. Fossils help paleontologists understand what dinosaurs looked like and how they lived. Dinosaur fossils are sometimes displayed as exhibits in museums.
5. Write a "Main Idea" web on the board and at the center write the word 'paleontologist.' Ask the students to share their thoughts about the characteristics a person must have to be a paleontologist; add their ideas to the word web.



6. Distribute the Document: Paleontologists to each student. Students will read and answer questions 1 and 2 using the information they have learned. Encourage them to work together to share their reasoning for selecting their choices.

7. Students will have an opportunity to imagine, draw, and name a fictional dinosaur. They will pretend to have “discovered” a new dinosaur. The dinosaur’s name should include a portion of their own name (either first or last) such as: Marysaurus or Johnnyasaurus Rex.

Extension Idea:

KLRN PBS LearningMedia:

<http://klrn.pbslearningmedia.org>

On PBS LearningMedia, search for: Caillou the Paleontologist. It is an interactive activity that allows students to dig for fossils.