

## Lesson 2: Mesozoic Era (Fact or Opinion)

### Objectives:

1. Students will read statements about the Mesozoic Era and identify if they are facts or opinions.
2. Students will write a paragraph describing the Mesozoic Era.

### Materials:

- Document: Dinosaur Picture (One picture per student.)
- Class set of the Document: Dinosaur Facts or Opinions
- Green and red color pencils
- Vocabulary Cards (Mesozoic Era, Triassic Period, Jurassic Period, Cretaceous Period) (Used in Lesson 1.)

### Procedure:

1. Distribute a Dinosaur Picture to each student.
2. Ask the students to tell you why the picture is an inaccurate description of the Mesozoic Era. Review with the students what you discussed in Lesson 1. *The Mesozoic Era consisted of the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods. Reiterate that different dinosaurs were alive in different periods. One inaccuracy is that the picture shows Tyrannosaurus rex, which was alive during the Cretaceous Period, with the Stegosaurus, which was alive during the Jurassic Period.*
3. Distribute the Document: Dinosaur Facts or Opinions to each student. Explain that facts are statements that can be proven and opinions are statements that tell what someone believes or feels.
4. Instruct the students to read the statements. They will use color pencils to color the facts green and the opinions red.
5. On the back of the sheet, students will write a paragraph explaining why the mini picture is an inaccurate depiction of the Mesozoic Era. Students will have the opportunity to read or summarize their paragraph for the class.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ KEY \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Dinosaurs: Facts or Opinions

A fact is a statement that can be proven to be true.  
An opinion is a statement that tells what someone believes or feels.  
An opinion cannot be proven to be true.

Read the statements. If the statement is a fact, color the bubble green. If the statement is an opinion, color the bubble red.

Stegosaurus dinosaurs are living on volcanic islands.	Tyrannosaurus rex was a carnivore. It ate meat.	The Jurassic Period had the most dinosaur dinosaurs.
Dinosaurs are more intelligent than insects.	The Cretaceous Period dates from 145 million years to 65 million years ago.	Fossil dinosaurs were proven that they dinosaurs.
Triceratops ate plants. It was an herbivore.	Fossils prove that dinosaurs lived on earth millions of years ago.	The Mesozoic Era has three periods: the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous.

**Extension Ideas:**

1. Students can use the computer to research information of a dinosaur of their choice. They can create a PowerPoint or brochure.
2. KLRN PBS LearningMedia:  
<http://klrn.pbslearningmedia.org>  
On PBS LearningMedia, search for: Interactive Field Guide. It is an interactive video and audio glossary describing dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era.