Lesson 1: KWL Chart

Objective:
1. Students will use their existing knowledge about dinosaurs to help make a class “KWL chart.”

Materials:
- A collection of dinosaur books from the school library
- A piece of butcher paper with three columns pre-labeled “K” (What I know…), “W” (What I want to know…) and “L” (What I learned…)
- Markers (assortment of colors)
- A class set of the Document: What I learned about dinosaurs...

Procedure:
1. Ask your students, “What do you know about dinosaurs?” Record the student responses in the “K” section of the chart.

2. Ask your students, “What do you want to learn about dinosaurs?” Record the student responses in the “W” section of the chart.

3. Divide students into groups of three. Distribute a few books to each group and give the following instructions. “You are going to browse the books to learn new facts about dinosaurs. Search through the books to find information about what you wanted to learn today. Each group will share what they have learned.”

4. After 20 minutes, encourage the students to share their findings with the entire class.

5. Ask your students if they were able to find answers to any of their questions. Give the students the opportunities to share what they have learned.

6. Ask your students, “What did you learn about dinosaurs from the books?” Record the student responses in the “L” section of the chart.

7. Distribute the Document: What I learned about dinosaurs. Students will write one paragraph about the most interesting dinosaur fact they learned.

8. Inform your students that they will be learning different facts about dinosaurs this week. Encourage them to visit the library, check out books about dinosaurs, and share the new information with the class.

9. Continue to add information to the “KWL” chart daily.
Extension Ideas:

1. KLRN PBS LearningMedia:
   http://klrn.pbslearningmedia.org
   On PBS LearningMedia, search for: Interactive Field Guide. It is a visual and audio glossary that teaches interesting facts, including the name and pronunciations of different dinosaurs.

2. Students may research information about one dinosaur. They can create a poster (either independently or with a small group) that describes facts about the dinosaur. Information can include items like: its diet, the time period it lived, how it moved, and where its remains were found.