

# SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

## DINOSAUR ASSEMBLY, GRADES K-2



Find out what fossils teach us about dinosaurs! Your students will learn how scientists compare the physical features left behind by dinosaurs in fossils to animals we know today. They'll uncover fossils from the past and assemble a life-size dinosaur skeleton puzzle!

### GENERAL OUTLINE:

#### **An item from a dinosaur – Thinking like a scientist**

The Dinosaurs assembly program draws on the natural enthusiasm primary aged students have for dinosaurs to give them experience in “thinking like a scientist.” Students explore how scientists know that dinosaurs existed by carefully examining what they left behind - fossils!

#### **What scientists can learn from bones**

Students practice “thinking like a scientist” when they compare observations about femur bones and fossils from other organisms to develop conclusions.

#### **Deinonychus Skeleton: Clues about the animal.**

As the presenter “digs” into modeled layers of rock, students discover and compare plant and animal fossils. When they reach the “bones” of a Deinonychus dinosaur, students use scientific thinking to assemble the skeleton and make conclusions about this creature’s appearance and behavior.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Science is the process of making observations, collecting data and making interpretations based on the physical evidence.
- Different theories may explain the same set of observations.
- Fossils provide evidence of plants and animals that lived long ago.
- Models are used to learn about real life objects and events.

#### **Vocabulary Introduced:**

- Scientist
- Observation
- Fossil

**Program Length:** 40 minutes

**Audience Size:** Up to 150 students

**Preparation:** Science Museum Instructor brings all equipment and materials needed.

School provides two tables for demonstrations, and access to electricity. Allow 45 minutes before and after programs for set-up and take-down.

**MN Academic Standard Strand:** The Nature of Science and Engineering (0.1.1.2.1, 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2)

**NGSS Science and Engineering Practices:** Analyzing and Interpreting Data (1-ESS1-1), Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions (1-LS3-1)

**NGSS Crosscutting Concepts:** Structure and Function (2-LS2-2)

If you have further questions on bringing programming to your school, please contact our Outreach Registration Coordinator at (651) 221-4748 or [schooloutreach@smm.org](mailto:schooloutreach@smm.org).