

Introduction

This interactive resource has a variety of possible applications connected with different areas of the curriculum. Dinosaurs often generate interest, so a resource that invites you to hunt for fossils in different parts of the world will appeal to some students. Such interactive games can be very effective with some students with special educational needs, as they give the student the opportunity to develop skills in a fun, independent context. The visual images within the hunt section could provide a focus for discussions on rock types and formations.

Running the activity

Having signed in on entering the resource, you are presented with five possibilities:

- Dinosaur Reference Section – a database of different dinosaurs with pictures and key facts.
- Tray – where you keep your fossils collected from hunting.
- Extinction – a factual presentation considering possible theories as to why dinosaurs may have become extinct.
- Timeline – displaying when dinosaurs were on the earth, how long humans have been around and the different time periods.
- Hunt – search different locations in the world for fossils included in the picture.

The Hunt is the main game element, allowing you to collect fossils that are hidden in the picture of the global location. Some are difficult to find within the rock structures in the picture, but that adds to the challenge. When you find a fossil in a scene, it is transferred to your Tray, which scores you points. Be careful not to select rocks, because you only have a certain number of chances. You can try to identify the fossil by comparing it with the fossil pictures in the dinosaur section (this part of the game is a little more challenging). The different sections can be used to support the games or as a teaching resource.

Ways of using the resource

The game could be used as a reward or privilege at the end of a lesson. It could support activities in a Science Club.

The pictures within the Hunt show many sedimentary rock features. These could be used with a digital projector/interactive white board when discussing rock types and fossils. It is advised that the teacher tries out different locations within the game before using it with a class, since sometimes the fossils are hard to find! Encourage the students to describe what they see, or ask them to select where they would like to visit in the world.

The dinosaur pictures show various adaptations and defence mechanisms, with some accentuating the large sharp teeth of carnivores. The extinction and timeline sections may support discussions on the evolution of the Earth, with possible cross-curricular usage.

Where the activity fits in

It connects with the topics Rocks and Weathering (8G) and The Solar System and Beyond (7L) with other possible cross-curricular links.

Skills

ICT skills

Observational and vocabulary development when used as a focus for class discussions.

Reinforcement and development of subject-based knowledge.

Acknowledgements

Simon Hensby (aka Grey Olltwit) produced *Dinosaur Hunt*. His Adders website <http://www.adders.org/> promotes awareness of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, providing information and resources.