

Lesson & Activity Ideas, & Resources for [Tiny Dino](#)

by Deborah Freedman

Learn more about Deborah, her books, and find more teaching resources at www.deborahfreedman.net

Twitter @DeborahFreedman • FB @deborah.freedman.author.illustrator • Instagram @freedmanillustrates



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Dear parents and educators,

*Full disclosure—I do not have any experience or expertise as a teacher or writer of curriculum! The ideas below come from my process and imagination as an author and illustrator, and I hope that they inspire you to follow up your reading of **Tiny Dino** with one of the hands-on activities here, or one of your own.*

This is a work in progress. I welcome your input.

*Many thanks for sharing my book with children!
Deborah*



Themes

- Identity
- Interconnectedness
- How are we alike? How are we different?
- Assumptions vs Facts
- Evolution

Science

- T. Rex vs the bird:
 - Name the ways they are the same.
 - How are they different?
- What about the other characters in the book? What characteristics do they have in common? What are their differences?
- What do you know about hummingbirds? What can you find out? What makes them special among birds?
- Go outside with binoculars or set up a bird feeder and observe the living dinosaurs around you.

Reading & Writing

- "I'm a ___!" Who are you?
 - Describe yourself to show how you are unique.
 - And how are you like others?
- Read my bio on the book flap and write your own fun, dinosaur-related bio.

Art

- See how I made the "splashy" art in **Tiny Dino**, and try it yourself!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPhlQHKVHK4>
- See how I draw birds, using simple shapes. How many different kinds of avian dinosaurs can you draw? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pybHgSSprvA>

Links

- [Dinosaurs Among Us](#): American Museum of Natural History: Highlights from the 2016 exhibit, resources, and an educator's guide.
- [Where to Find Fossils in Your State](#)
- [National Geographic Kids: Dinomania](#): "Explore the incredible world of dinosaurs through fascinating facts, amazing art, and the latest science."

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Further Reading for Kids:

- **When Dinosaurs Conquered the Skies: The incredible story of bird evolution**, Jingmai O'Connor, illustrated by Maria Brzozowska, Quarto Publishing, 2022
- **Feathered Dinosaurs**, Brenda Guiberson, illustrated by William Low, Henry Holt and Company, 2016
- **How Big Were Dinosaurs?** Lita Judge, Roaring Brook Press, 2013
- **Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!** Kathleen Kudlinski, illustrated by S.D. Schindler, Dutton Children's Books, 2005
- **Dinosaur Feathers**, Dennis Nolan, Neal Porter Books, Holiday House, 2019
- **Dinosaurs?!** Lila Prap, North South, 2012
- **Dinosaurs Are Not Extinct: Real Facts About Real Dinosaurs**, Drew Sheneman, HarperCollins, 2020
- **Scaly Spotted Feathered Frilled: How Do We Know What Dinosaurs Really Looked Like?** Catherine Thimmesh, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

Videos for Kids: Check out my [“Dinos & Birds”](#) YouTube Playlist, which includes:

- **Are dinosaurs still alive today?** American Museum of Natural History, March 2019.
<https://www.amnh.org/explore/videos/dinosaurs-and-fossils/are-dinosaurs-alive-today> 2:09
- **Are Birds Modern-Day Dinosaurs?** National Geographic, May 7, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaWb0UUNc00> 2:53
- **Why Birds Are Dinosaurs**, The Living Connection, July 30, 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=gbnmPJbh4yQ> 4:15
- **The Birds That Lived in The Age of Dinosaurs**, SciShow, with Hank Green , May 6, 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lqi8pGR6yLM> 7:26
- **Great Transitions: The Origin of Birds**, HHMI Biointeractive, Feb 13, 2015.
<https://www.biointeractive.org/classroom-resources/great-transitions-origin-birds> 18:59

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Books:

- Stephen Brusatte, **The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of a Lost World**, William Morrow, 2018
- Darren Naish, Paul Barrett, **Dinosaurs: How They Lived and Evolved**, Smithsonian Books, 2016

Articles:

- [How Dinosaurs Shrank and Became Birds](#): Modern birds appeared to emerge in a snap of evolutionary time. But new research illuminates the long series of evolutionary changes that made the transformation possible. By Emily Singer, Quanta Magazine on June 12, 2015.
- [Birds Evolved From Dinosaurs Slowly—Then Took Off](#): An 80-million-year transition was capped with a burst of feathered diversity. Dan Vergano, National Geographic, 9/25/14.
- [Scientists reconstruct genomes of common ancestor of crocodiles, birds, dinosaurs](#), Tim Stephens, UC Santa Cruz Newscenter, 12/11/14.
- [The Day the Dinosaurs Died](#): A young paleontologist may have discovered a record of the most significant event in the history of life on Earth, by Douglas Preston, The New Yorker, March 29, 2019.
- [Reimagining Dinosaurs](#), National Geographic, October 2020 issue
- [How Birds Survived the Asteroid Impact That Wiped Out the Dinosaurs](#), Hannah Waters, Audubon Magazine, May 24, 2018.

Podcasts:

- **Paleo Nerds, Episode #9: [All Birds are Dinosaurs, but Not All Dinosaurs are Birds](#)**—Paleontologist Jingmai O'Connor teaches the Nerds how to fly! Well, at least how dinosaurs evolved flight and eventually became the birds we live with today. Published September 8, 2020.
- **Yale Biology: Birds as Living Dinosaurs**—Richard O. Prum, Professor and Chair of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale discusses the evolutionary link between birds and dinosaurs. Published January 7, 2009.

Videos:

- [Digging For Answers To Avians' Ancestors](#), Science Friday, 10/2/20.
- [Reimagining Dinosaurs Roundtable](#), National Geographic's cover feature "Reimagining Dinosaurs" highlights three Yale scientists and their work on Peabody specimens. Streamed live on 2/18/2021.

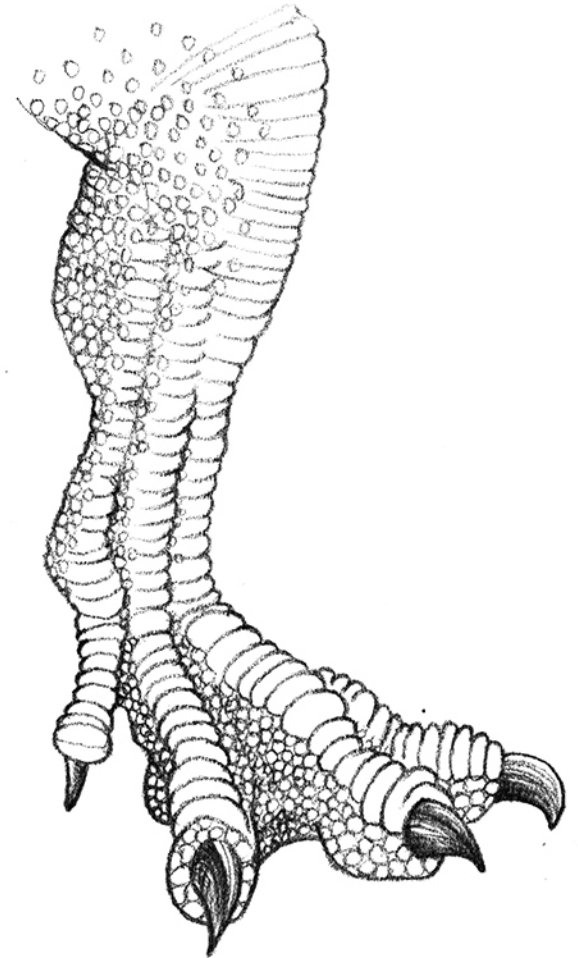
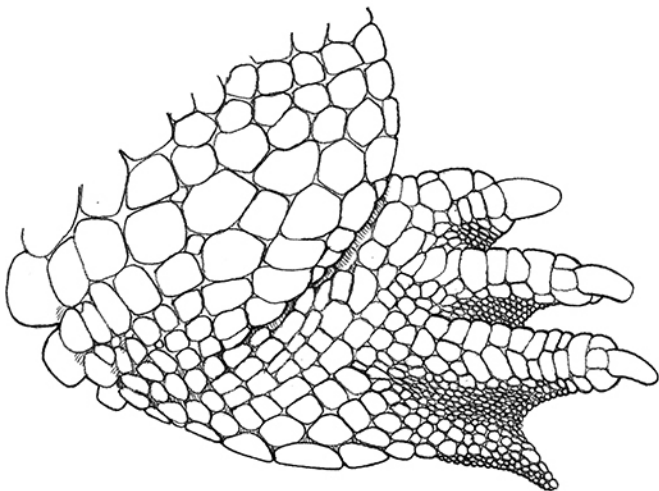
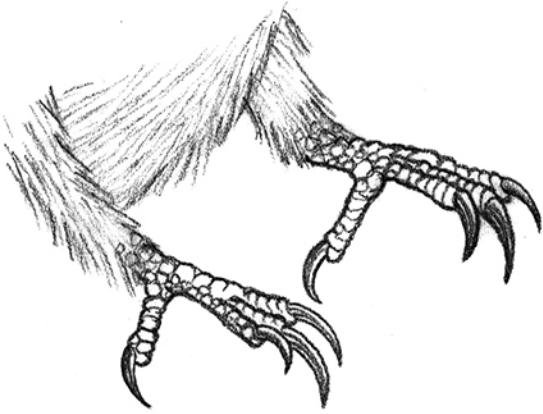
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Whose feet are these?

- Label the feet. What creatures do they belong to?
The **bird**? The **crocodile**? The **T. rex**?
- What is the same about the feet? What is different?
- Circle the feet if they belong to a dinosaur!



Are You A DINOSAUR?

Do you have a backbone?

Yes▼

No▶ You are an invertebrate, like a worm or a jellyfish or maybe a shrimp or a beetle. You are not a dinosaur.

Are you the largest animal to ever live on land?

No▼

Yes▶ The largest animal to ever live on land was the long-necked Argentinosaurus, a sauropod. Sauropod dinosaurs are all extinct, so you cannot be a dinosaur.

Are you warm blooded?

Yes▼

No▶ It is still unclear whether all dinosaurs were warm-blooded. However, all extant dinosaurs are warm-blooded, so maybe you are a lizard or a tree frog. You are not a dinosaur.

Do you have feet? **Yes**▼

No▶ You may be a fish, or perhaps a snake. You are not a dinosaur.

Can you fly? **Yes**▼ **No**▼

Some dinosaurs fly and some don't. You might be a dinosaur.

Did you hatch from an egg?

Yes▼

No▶ You are not a dinosaur.

Do you have feathers?

Yes▼

No→ You are not a dinosaur.

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU ARE
A DINOSAUR!

BUT —
even if you are not a dinosaur—
whatever you are—
you are still living and breathing and reading, which means you are part of the animal kingdom and that is pretty cool. 😎



The Evolution of Dinosaurs

- Which creatures are dinosaurs? Circle them.
- Which are extinct? X them out.

