

# KS1 Dinosaur Topic

# KS2 Dinosaur Topic

## The Secret Dinosaurs



**Giants  
Awake**

**N.S. Blackman**

- Creative writing projects
- Literacy activity sheets
- Dinosaur literacy activities
- Art activity sheets
- KS2 and KS1 Dinosaur Topic
- School Author Visit

# Introduction

**“Aimed at boys who are reluctant readers with their interesting blend of dinosaurs and technology - but with wide appeal - as they are fast moving; rip roaring adventures ... All in all, a welcome addition...”**

*The School Librarian Journal*

This fast-paced story in which dinosaurs come to life brings together dinosaurs; science fiction; action; adventure and warm hearted characters. It's a combination which engages even the most reluctant readers and there are plentiful illustrations throughout, to delight all dinosaur fans.

Extracts from the book have been used in Hodder Education's Primary Literacy Course as an exemplar of engaging writing for primary school children.

The book is popular among emergent and confident readers, and it is proven to encourage reading for pleasure.

The author, N.S.Blackman, has been shortlisted for the Hull Children's Book Award by the Hull Schools Library Service. He is available for KS1 and KS2 school author visits and creative writing workshops.

# Contents

- **Story writing** - planning your own dinosaur mystery
- **Thinking about characters** - describe a villain; wow words; discussion; drawing
- **Story ideas** - what happens next?
- **Editing** and writing your story
- **Word search** and **colouring** sheets
- **Dinotek Spotting!** An activity to **get children outside** looking for dinosaur clues
- **Design a Dinotek dinosaur** - a **creative, craft** activity
- **A school author visit** from The Secret Dinosaur's author-illustrator N.S.Blackman

# Availability

The author, N.S.Blackman, is available for KS1 and KS2 school author visits and creative writing workshops.

## NS Blackman author visit details

Books are available from specialist school suppliers such as Peters and **Madeleine Lindley** as well as **Wordery** and **Amazon UK**.

# School Rates

For special school rates (volume orders of 30 books or more to a school address) please contact the publisher, Dinosaur Books Ltd: [info@dinosaurbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@dinosaurbooks.co.uk)



## Story writing

### Plan your own dinosaur mystery story



In **chapter two** of *The Secret Dinosaur*, schoolboy Marlin Maxton discovers a life-sized model of a centrosaurus in a forgotten room at the museum. In a moment of great excitement he realises that what he has found is more than just a model: the huge creature suddenly speaks to him.

*This is a great point at which to inspire your pupils' own creativity through their engagement with this thrilling moment in the adventure.*

#### **Ask pupils to plan out their own dinosaur mystery story.**

- Encourage them to discuss their ideas first, in groups or with partners. The activity sheet on the following page makes a good starting point and helps with ideas and structure. There is also a printable page where pupils can record their ideas.
- Pupils can return to this activity over the coming days/weeks as they progress through *The Dinoteks* and the children can also work through the other creative writing activities; they can keep adding to their plan before they come to write their finished story.

# Plan your own dinosaur mystery story!

Imagine that one morning you discover some strange tracks in the grass.

You think they look like dinosaur footprints, but nobody believes you.

Write a story to tell what happens next...



## Some ideas to think about for your story...

- Where would be a good place to find a secret dinosaur?
- Describe the creature - what does it look like?
- Is the creature fierce or friendly?
- Does it need your help... or is it dangerous?





## Characters: describe a villain



By the end of **chapter three** of *The Secret Dinosaur* the grumpy museum manager Mr Grubbler has already handed out boring worksheets to the children visiting the museum and warned Marlin “I’ve got my eye on you!”

*Pages 12 and 13 feature a great description of Mr Grubbler.*

*This is a good point to talk about characters in a story.*

*Most stories have a hero – like Marlin – and the opposite, a villain – like Mr Grubbler.*

*This activity will get children thinking about the importance of characters, specifically villains, and using some exciting adjectives to describe them. The children can relate this to their own dinosaur mystery stories.*

# Characters: describe a villain

## Teacher's sheet

Characters are important in stories, not just those we like but the ones that we don't like too – they're the **villains**.

A villain is a character in a story who does bad things. The villain in this story is Mr Grubbler.

- Re-read pages 11-13 from "it was a sunny day..." to "...hunt for dinosaurs."
- Complete the multiple choice quiz on the next page, as a class, groups or individually. Answers: **frowning, scowled and growled**.

These are great words to describe a villain of a story. Do we know what each of these words mean?

- Discuss meanings and synonyms for each correct adjective as a class. Note the synonyms that come up on the IWB.

**Frowning** - to screw up your eyes, so that your eyebrows come closer together and lines appear on your forehead. People do this to show that they are cross and unhappy! *Everyone try frowning!*

**Scowled** – to stare at someone very angrily with unfriendly, bad-tempered, sullen, stern eyes. People do this to show that they are angry. *Everyone try scowling!*

**Growled** – use a low, harsh, hard, rough voice that makes the other person feel afraid (just as when a dog growls). *Everyone try growling!*

- Ask the children to draw a picture of Mr Grubbler's face - using all three adjectives: eyebrows and eyes will be important in this picture!
- Now they should write a description of a villain - if they are planning a dinosaur story, it can be the villain of their own story.

They should describe what their character looks like – their expressions, voice, and eyes. They can use the adjectives that have come up in the class discussion to help them – (so not just scowling, frowning and growling but: fierce, unhappy, angry, sullen, stern, hard, harsh, rough, unfriendly, bad-tempered).

Add a speech bubble if you want to!



## Characters: Villains

# Multiple choice quiz!

Mr Grubbler is the villain or "baddie" of the *Secret Dinosaur* story. A villain is a character in a story who does bad things.

**Answer these questions about the description of Mr Grubbler after you have listened to your teacher reading to you.**

**Tick the the correct word for each answer.**

1. The sun was shining on Mr Grubbler's head as the children arrived at the museum. His head was bald and:

smiling

frowning

spinning

2. When he saw the children Mr Grubbler:

laughed

cried

scowled

3. Which word does the author use to describe the way that Mr Grubbler speaks when he is giving instructions to the children

"No running, no shouting, no touching anything," he shouted.

"No running, no shouting, no touching anything," he hissed.

"No running, no shouting, no touching anything," he growled.

## Plots and story ideas: what happens next?



At the end of **chapter 7** Marlin wakes up in bed to find that one of the museum dinosaur models has made its way to his house and is outside in the dark, in the garden. The chapter ends on a hugely exciting cliff hanger.

This is a great moment to talk to the children about plots. What happens next? This is a good way to support the dinosaur literacy theme and encourage the children to talk about their own story ideas and creative writing.

- Finish reading the end of chapter 7. What happens next? Explain that the author has the power to decide what will happen next and every author will decide on something different, according to what they think is the most interesting thing - there's no wrong answer but it's really good to think up lots of alternative ideas.
- Brainstorm ideas as a class and then in pairs/groups the children should decide what they think happens next in *The Dinoteks*. The ideas can be noted (with names) and saved for the next reading session to see if anyone comes up with the 'right' answer!
- If they are writing their own stories the children can do some more work on their plans. They should aim to include plenty of exciting moments in their stories.

## Editing, endings and writing stories



The end of **chapter 10** is a good point for the children to return to their own dinosaur mystery stories to edit their plans and write their stories (it can be done at any point but works well here as there is another very exciting chapter end).

**Editing** is very important when writing a story. It means going back to your story plan again and thinking about any changes.

- Get the children to revisit their dinosaur mystery story plans and to edit them. Is there a good hero, a bad villain? Are they well described? Are there exciting moments? What happens at the end?
- Children can now spend the next few sessions writing their stories.

## **Puzzles – Word Search, Colouring Sheets, Activity Sheets and Art Projects**

These activities can be completed in class at any point by any children as extension and/or finished at home if need be.

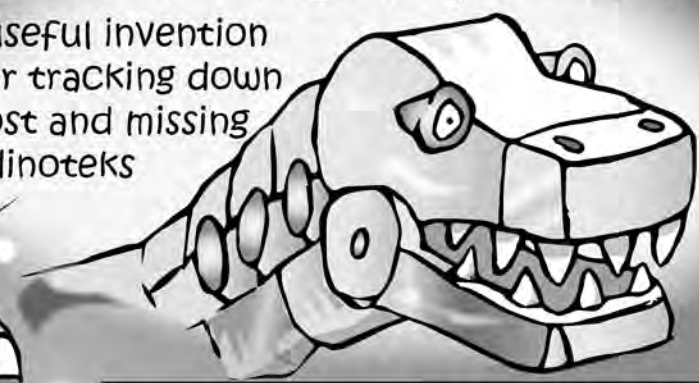
In this section is a fun wordsearch and puzzle, with the names of five popular dinosaurs to find.

There are also several colouring sheets, featuring a T-Rex and a scene from The Secret Dinosaur, with advice on which colours to use for the best effects.



# The Lost Dinosaur Locating Machine

a useful invention for tracking down lost and missing dinoteks



- Can you find the hidden dinosaur names?
- Centrosaurus
  - Stegosaurus
  - Tyrannosaur
  - Troodon
  - Pterosaur

Which name appears twice?

Can you find the name that means 'egg stealer'?

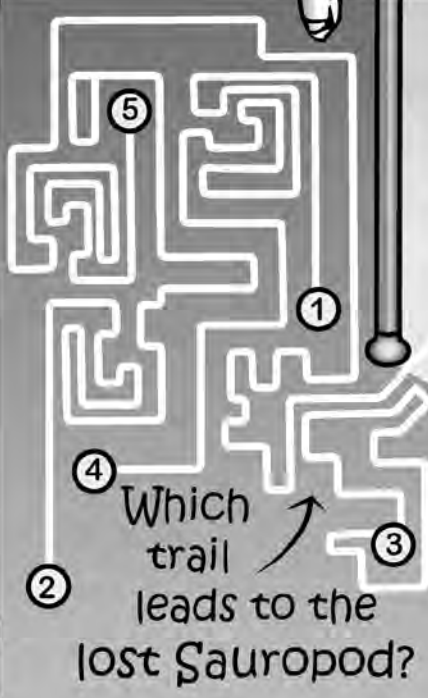
S N A K E R O R C O R O T O  
 A A I G P Y E Y E E T E Y E  
 B B R U T R O R N O R O R O  
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 V A N G A L T R O O D O N R  
 B U R U N R O N S O O N O A  
 A L I G O Y E Y A E N E S P  
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 S T E G O S A U R U S O U O  
 B T R U N R O R U O R P R R  
 B A R U B L O R S O X T R E



Can you fill in the missing letters from the creature names below?

- Archeo  tery
- Sauro  od
- Deinonychu
- Mega  eura
- Iguano  on
- riceratop

Chose from these letters > n d p T S X



Which trail leads to the lost Sauropod?



# Wordsearch answers

## The Lost Dinosaur Locating Machine

It works!  
(And did you also notice the snake?)



Here are the hidden dinosaur names...

- Centrosaurus
- Stegosaurus
- Tyrannosaur
- Troodon
- Pterosaur

Troodon appears twice

Oviraptor is the name that means 'egg stealer'

SNAKERORCOROTO  
 AAIGPYEYEETEYE  
 BBRUTRORNORORO  
 RYIGEYETEEOEAV  
 EORURRTRROOHNI  
 VANGALTROODONR  
 BURUNRONSNOOA  
 ALIGOYEYAENESP  
 BERUDRORUOROAT  
 STEGOSAURUSOUO  
 BTRUNRORUORPRR  
 BARUBLORSOXTRE

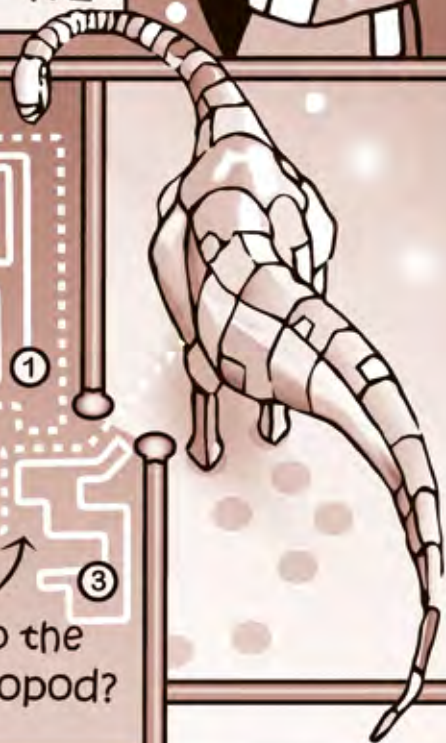


Here are the missing letters from the creature names below...

- Archeo  p tery  x
- Sauro  p od
- Deinonychu  s
- Mega  n eura
- Iguano  d on
- T riceratop  s

Chosen from these letters: n d p T s x

Trail 5 leads to the lost Sauropod?

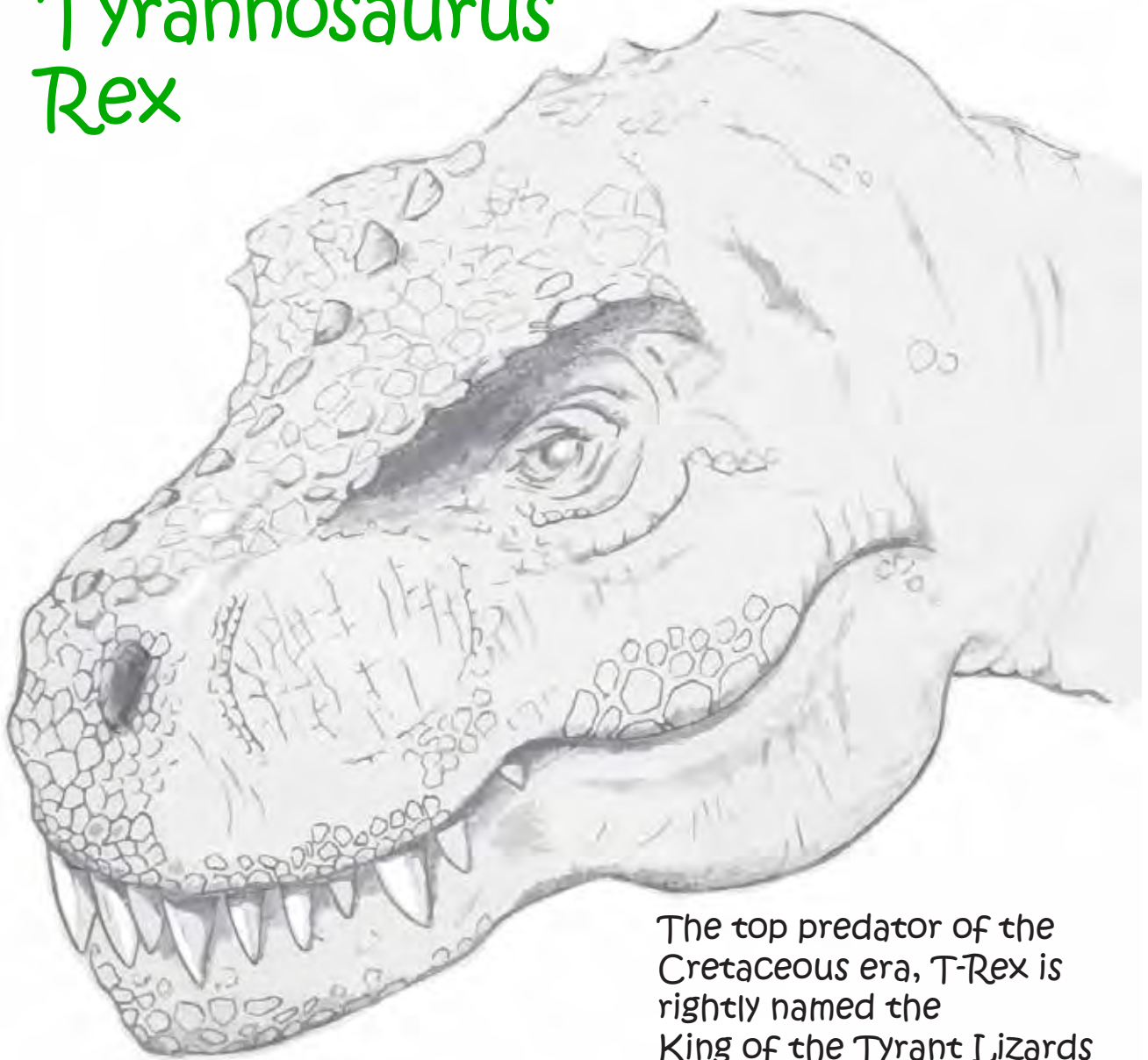






# The Secret Dinosaur colouring projects

## Tyrannosaurus Rex



The top predator of the Cretaceous era, T-Rex is rightly named the King of the Tyrant Lizards

Drawn by: N.S.Blackman

Coloured by: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

To get this great effect you need four pencils with colours like those shown below. Shade gently. Start with the lighter colours, then add the darker ones.

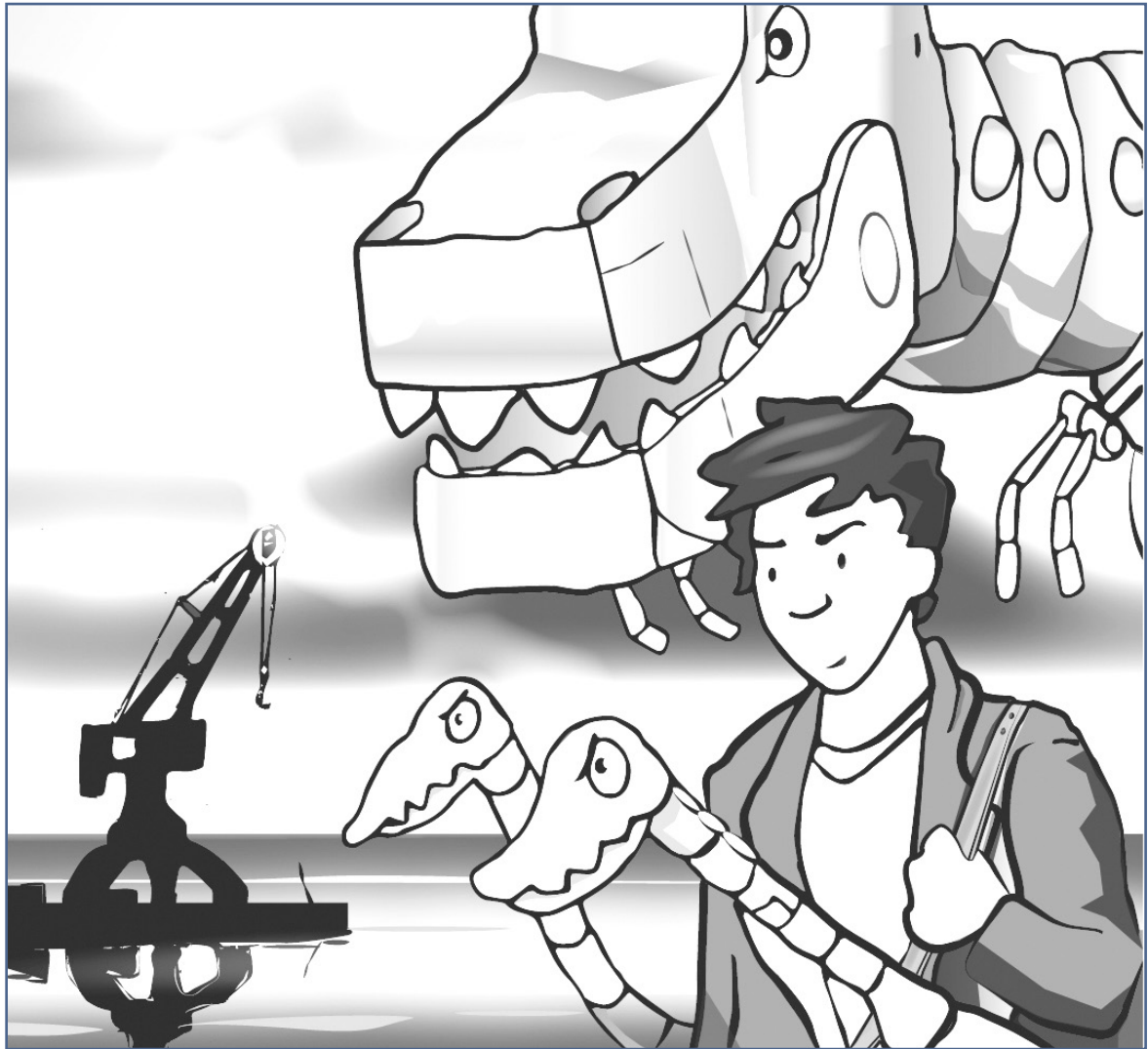


highlights left  
without colour



## The rescue party

Drawn by: N.S.Blackman    Coloured by: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



The two Troodons are very brave, especially when Flame and Marlin are close behind them. In this picture they all set out together on a mission to rescue one of their friends. But as they walk along beside the sea, who knows what they'll find...

Best colours to use

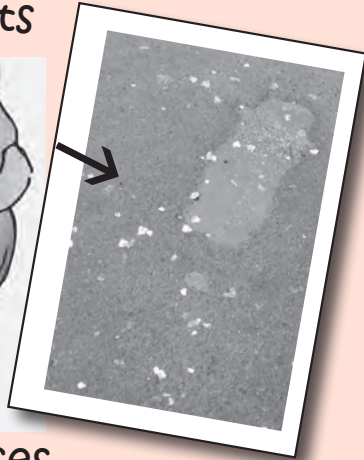






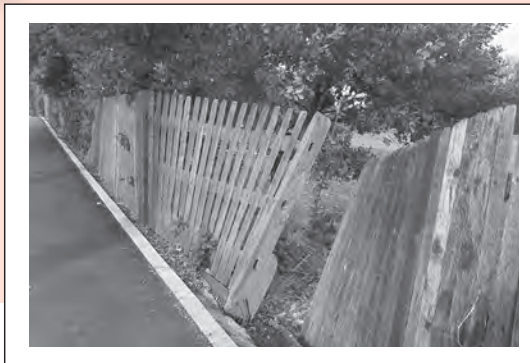
Damaged trees, and fallen branches

Footprints



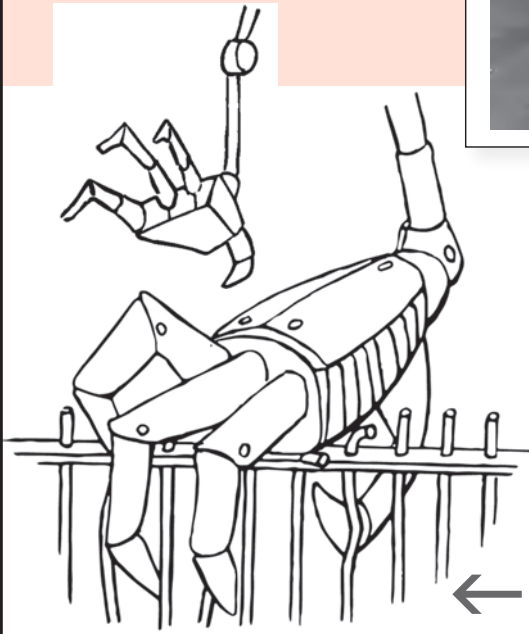
Fences

↓ leaning over



Make a list of the things you find - including the date and time.

You can also draw sketches like this to show what you think might have caused any damage you discover...



Fold here to make a booklet - then make your drawings and notes on the inside pages!

# Find Dinotek clues where you live...

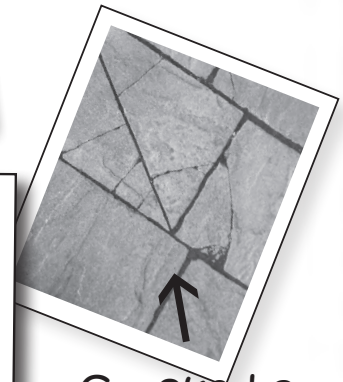
Make your own Secret Dinosaur Clues Notebook by folding this sheet along the dotted line. There are lots of clues to look for...



Metal fences twisted or broken



Sometimes pieces of Dinotek fall off!



Cracked or damaged paving stones

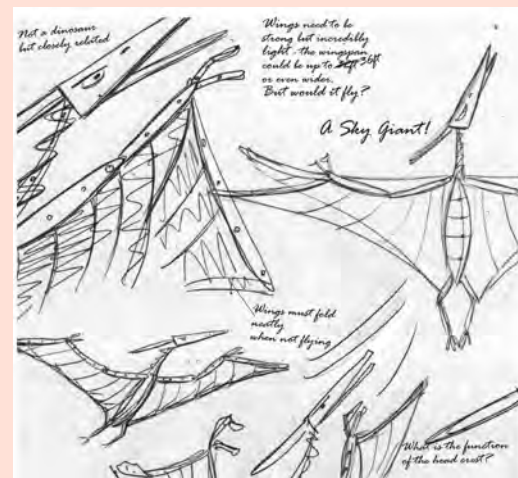
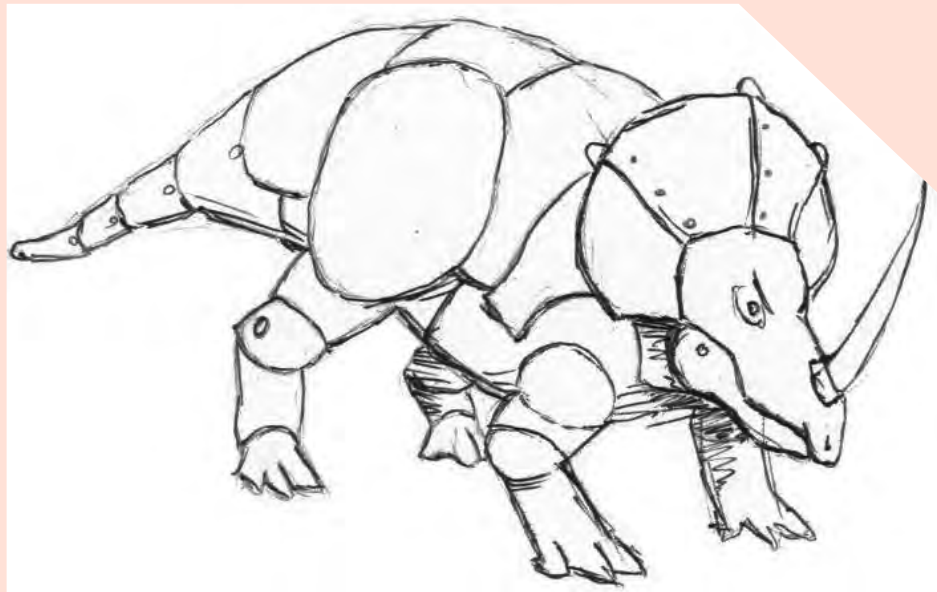
Hunt safely! Always ask an adult before you go - and stick to safe areas that you know!

# Design your own Dinotek!

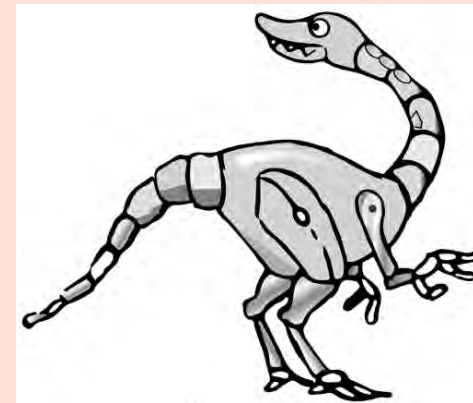
Can you invent a new Dinotek?

First choose any good dinosaur picture to copy. This will help you get the basic shape right.

Now, to make a Dinotek version add metal plates, rivets, nuts and bolts for a great mechanical look.



You can also add notes to your design drawings



Some drawing tips from N.S.Blackman...

There are many different ways to draw - just choose a style that you enjoy.

- It's fun to do very quick sketches and not worry about making mistakes.

- Or you can work slowly and put in lots of details.

Most important of all, have fun and develop your own style - don't worry about how it compares with others. Whatever style you like doing one thing is always true... the more often you draw, the better you'll get!



# Creative writing workshops and 'meet the author' assemblies

The author of The Secret Dinosaur, NS Blackman is available for author visits. For more information please see NS Blackman's Facebook or Contact An Author information

