

Comparing Creatures

The following activity will encourage pupils to make comparisons between Stan the T-rex and various other creatures in the Museum.

Preparation

You will need clip boards, pencils and copies of a 'creature comparison' sheet (please select either sheet 1 or sheet 2 depending on the ability of your class and the amount of free time you have to explore the museum).

Introduction: In the fossils gallery in front of the T-rex

Ask pupils to think about some of the dinosaurs that they have studied. How are they different from each other?

Ask pupils to spend one minute thinking about some of the different dinosaurs that they have studied, and then spend two minutes discussing the differences with a partner. Finally, ask pupils to share some of the differences with the class.

Explain that dinosaurs came in all different shapes and sizes. Some ate meat, others ate plants. Some were huge, others were tiny. Some walked on 4 legs, others walked on 2 legs. Some had tail clubs, others had armour. Some had sharp claws, others had sharp horns.

Explain that in spite of these differences, all dinosaurs have five features in common. To be classified as a dinosaur, a creature must meet all of the following criteria

1. Dinosaurs were reptiles
2. Dinosaurs are extinct: they lived from around 230-65 million years ago during the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods
3. Dinosaurs were land animals: they lived on land, not in the water
4. Dinosaurs walked with their legs directly under their bodies: their legs were not sprawled out to the side
5. Dinosaurs walked on their toes: they did not walk with flat feet

Creature Comparisons 1

Split the class into groups, and allocate each group an adult helper.

Hand out one 'Creature Comparisons 1' sheet to each group.

6. Explain that each group should explore Living Worlds (directly above the Fossils Gallery), Nature's Library (directly above Living Worlds) and the Live Animals gallery (at the end of Nature's Library), and find creatures that are similar to and different from Stan the T-rex.

Creature Comparisons 2

Split the class into groups, and allocate each group an adult helper.

Hand out one 'Creature Comparisons 2' sheet to each group.

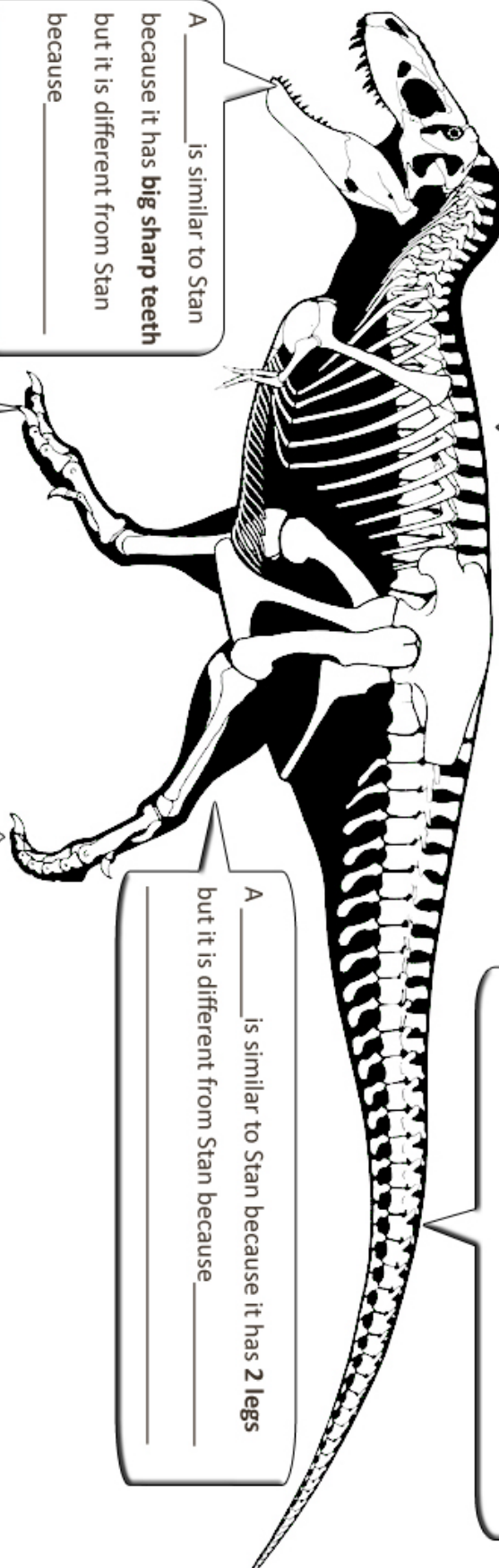
Explain that each group should explore Living Worlds (directly above the Fossils Gallery), Nature's Library (directly above Living Worlds) and the Live Animals gallery (at the end of Nature's Library), and find the creatures listed on their sheet.

When they find each creature, they should note down at least one way in which it is similar to Stan the T-rex, and 1 way in which it is different from Stan the T-rex.

Comparing Creatures

Explore Living Worlds, Nature's Library and Live Animals. Look for creatures that have similar features to Stan the T-rex, and complete the statements below.

Creature Comparison 1



A _____ is similar to Stan because it is **big** but it is different from _____ because _____

A _____ is similar to Stan because it has **big sharp teeth** but it is different from Stan because _____

A _____ is similar to Stan because it has **3 toes** but it is different from Stan because _____

A _____ is similar to Stan because it has **sharp claws** but it is different from Stan because _____

A _____ is similar to Stan because it has **2 legs** but it is different from Stan because _____

A _____ is similar to Stan because it has a **long tail** but it is different from Stan because _____

Comparing Creatures

Explore Living Worlds, Nature's Library and Live Animals. Look for each of the creatures listed below and note down at least one way in which it is similar to Stan the T-rex and one way in which it is different from Stan the T-rex.

Creature Comparison 2

Stan is similar to an **eagle** because: _____

Stan is different from an **eagle** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **snake** because: _____

Stan is different from a **snake** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **polar bear** because: _____

Stan is different from a **polar bear** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **whale** because: _____

Stan is different from a **whale** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **tiger** because: _____

Stan is different from a **tiger** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **human** because: _____

Stan is different from a **human** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **crocodile** because: _____

Stan is different from a **crocodile** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **squirrel** because: _____

Stan is different from a **squirrel** because: _____

Stan is similar to a **lizard** because: _____

Stan is different from a **lizard** because: _____

