



## **Lesson: Bones, Teeth and Claws!**

**Grade level: K-8**

**Lesson duration: 45 minutes**

### **Objectives:**

- Students will identify at least 8 characteristics shared by dinosaurs and modern animals.
- Students will identify at least 4 ways in which a non-avian dinosaur is different from a modern animal of their choice.
- Students will identify at least 6 elements that must be present for an animal to survive.
- Students will create an artistic representation of habitats for a modern animal and a dinosaur.

### **Kit Materials:**

- Dinosaur images (14)

### **Materials:**

- Blank paper
- Colored pencils
- Whiteboard or poster paper
- Whiteboard markers or permanent markers

## Lesson procedure:

1. Begin by asking students to make a list of things that a human, dog, or cat would need to survive each week. Encourage older students to be specific (“protein” and “nutrients” instead of just “food”). Make a list on the paper or whiteboard. Now, ask them if they can think of any animals that do not need these things.
2. Next, ask each student to draw a picture of a favorite animal and label it. Invite five students to bring their images in front of the class. As a class, use the list to identify which characteristics of those animals allow them to acquire the things that are necessary for survival (for example, a dog has sharp teeth that allow it to acquire meat and protein).
3. Put the dinosaur images on the whiteboard and ask the students to contribute ideas about some of the similarities they see between their animal drawings and the images of the dinosaurs. Encourage them to think about things that are both outside and inside of the dinosaurs (for example, claws, heart, spine, etc.)
4. Pick a few of the dinosaurs, and ask the students how they think those dinosaurs acquire the things they need to survive. For example, Velociraptors have a large claw on their back feet for hunting prey.
5. Ask the students to identify some differences between their animal drawing and one of the dinosaurs. How might the habitats of these two animals be different? (Explain to young students that a *habitat* is the natural home or environment of an animal).
6. Have students create an image of a habitat for one of the dinosaurs on the whiteboard, with the dinosaur in it. Then have them do the same with their modern animal. For an **extension** of the activity, have each student present their drawings as a class, and discuss the similarities and differences. Which aspects of the habitat are helping that animal survive? What might be a threat to them?