

DINOSAURS IN THE WILD



English post-visit lesson Dinosaur TV interview

60 minutes

KS2

Introduction

This lesson is to be completed after your visit to Dinosaurs in the Wild to keep your pupils immersed in their prehistoric world experience. It also serves as an excellent way to demonstrate all that they've learnt from their visit. Pupils will be invited to participate in a TV interview about their experience, and so need to plan and write a script about what they're going to say.

Curriculum links

English

- Writing – composition.

Learning objectives

- Writing: Recall events in detail
- Writing: Create an interview script that includes narrative elements

Resources required

- Activity Sheet: TV interview questions
- Activity Sheet: TV company invitation

Delivery notes

- 1** Explain the scenario to the class: A TV company has written a letter to the school. Someone tipped them off that this class was one of the first to visit Dinosaurs in the Wild and experience time travel. The TV company has heard that there was a dramatic incident involving dinosaurs and that some of the pupils witnessed it. They would like to interview some of the pupils about what happened.
- 2** Give each pupil a copy of **Activity Sheet: TV company invitation**, a letter from a TV company explaining what they are looking for. They want to interview two or three pupils on live TV who can really bring their experience to life for viewers of the local news. The interview will not work if the pupils give short, dull answers – they want to get across the drama, excitement and danger of what was witnessed. If it goes well, the pupils could then be interviewed on a big chat show and the story could maybe even go international. The letter gives hints and tips about how to give a good interview and add key detail to answers.

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- 3** Ask pupils to imagine that they have been chosen for the interview. Using **Activity Sheet: TV interview questions** (which has the interview questions, plus spaces for answers), they write a script for the interview, detailing their answers on paper. To prepare for this, pupils can first use role play in pairs, acting through an imaginary interview, then swapping roles. It may also help to show them a video of an example TV interview to model the typical language and approach used.
- 4** The written interview questions on **Activity Sheet: TV interview questions** include a number of simple 'recall' elements initially, but then go on to become more open and allow pupils to become more creative and expansive in their account of what happened. There is also the chance to use imagination and include a narrative element, when they are asked to say what they think is the explanation for the dramatic incident with the *T. rex* (i.e. they provide a mini-story to fill in the mystery). Pupils who need more space for this can use the back of the sheet.

Support

Pupils who need support could be helped by a teaching assistant, explaining how the interview will work and initially interviewing the pupil verbally (using the first few questions on the activity sheet). This should give the pupil more confidence to write a simple script, particularly if the assistant writes a set of notes based on the pupil's initial answers.

Challenge

The most able writers can be asked to create additional questions, with answers, on the back of the sheet, perhaps even including something humorous to end the TV show on a light-hearted note.

Extension ideas

- These provide opportunities for pupils to develop their speaking as well as writing
 - a) A written interview can be performed by two people, reading the script aloud. This could be recorded and played to the class then discussed in terms of how well the interviewee expressed him/herself.
 - b) A small number of interviews could also be filmed and made into an assembly piece, so that the rest of the school can find out about Dinosaurs in the Wild.
 - c) Schools can contact a local/regional TV company to see if they would be interested in interviewing pupils in real life about their Dinosaurs in the Wild experience.