

Make Your Own Dinosaur



Chuck Johnson, left, of Raleigh, N.C. and his friend, John Price, with the dinosaur Chuck and his mother made.

Chuck Johnson, age 8, became interested in dinosaurs when he was 4 years old.

His mom took him to the library where a librarian helped him learn how to pronounce the names.

His mom also took him to see a college professor who told him a lot more about the subject.

Chuck is like a lot of dinosaur lovers. He likes to read about, talk about, draw, collect and even make them.

Here's how he and his mom made the Brontosaurus you see above.

1. Make a chicken wire frame. You'll need wire cutters to get the right shape.

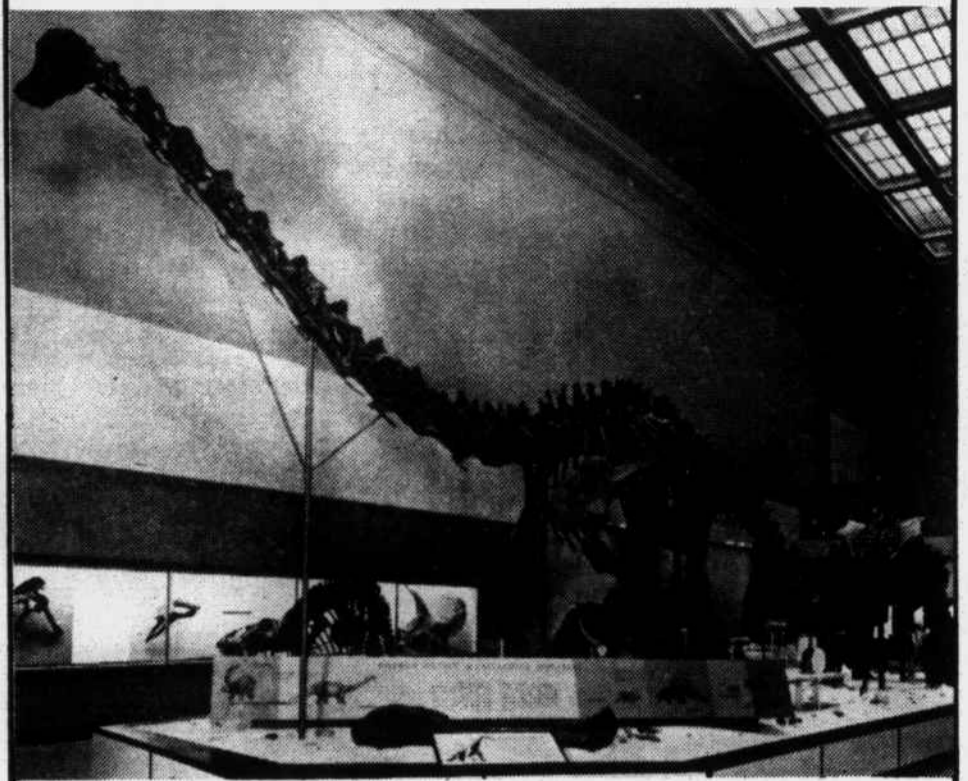
2. Cover the model with newspaper taped on with masking tape.

3. Now cover the model with strips of newspaper dipped in paste. (To make the paste, mix flour with water until you have a thick, soup-like mixture). Let it dry thoroughly.

4. Paint it with poster paint.

5. Put on a coat of clear shellac.

A Dinosaur Quiz



The Washington, D.C., Diplodocus — This skeleton was found in 1923 at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It is on display in the Hall of Dinosaurs in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

Q. What is a Diplodocus?

A. A Diplodocus (dip-LAH-do-kus) was a dinosaur that looked much like the Brontosaurus, except that it was longer (one measured 87 feet). The Diplodocus was a plant eater that spent a lot of time in water. It had nostrils on the top of its head so it could breathe easily while underwater. Its teeth were weak and only as big around as a pencil!

Q. How many different kinds of dinosaurs were there?

A. About 5,000. They did not all live at the same time. Some would die out and another kind would come into existence.

Q. Were all dinosaurs big, slow and fierce?

A. No. Some were as small as chickens or dogs. Some moved slowly. Others were swift. Some were gentle. Others were fierce.

Q. Were dinosaurs unsuccessful animals?

A. No. They were very successful. Dinosaurs lived on earth about 100 million years. Man has lived on earth for only about a half-million years.

Q. What is a paleontologist (PA-le-on-TOL-a-jist)?

A. A person who studies about animal fossils.

Q. What happened to dinosaurs?

A. No one really knows. They probably disappeared over a 5-million-year period. Scientists do know that the temperature became cooler. They also know there was a change in the land's shape and the earth lost many of its swampy places.

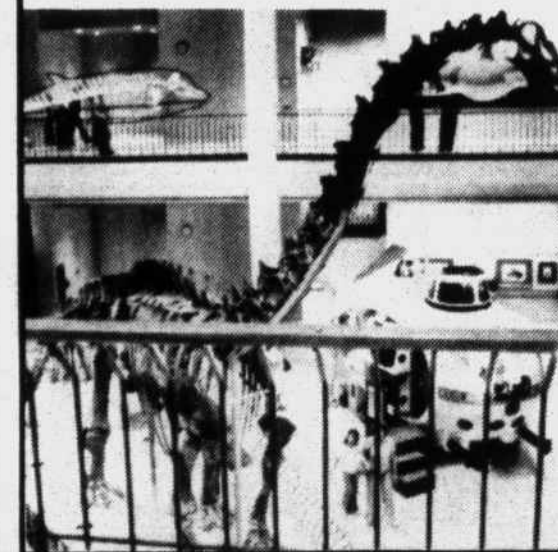


Photo courtesy Larry Megow

The Houston Diplodocus— The Museum of Natural Science in Houston, Texas, houses the first big dinosaur skeleton to be built in over 45 years. It costs a lot of money to do this.

For Parents 'n Teachers

To Keep You Posted: Pages 1 and 4, when displayed side-by-side, make an ideal poster for home or classroom.

Page 1: Background: The largest dinosaur-like animals alive today are huge lizards, called the "Dragons of Komodo." They can be found on the island of Komodo and several other small islands of Indonesia. Some can grow to be as long as 10 feet. They hunt other animals during the daytime and hide in caves at night.

Dinosaurs and lizards are reptiles. Reptiles have backbones or horny plates or scales. They are cold-blooded. However, some scientists say that dinosaurs were warm-blooded, but they don't know for certain. People are warm-blooded. Their temperature stays the same, unless they are sick. Cold-blooded animals, such as snakes and turtles, have body temperatures that are the same as that of the air around them.

Memory game: Ask the children to study the page. Cover up one of the dinosaurs and see if they can tell you which one is missing.

Page 4: Dinosaur Quiz: Ask the children to read over the questions and answers. Then ask them the questions to check their comprehension.