GRANDPA'S TIME MACHINE · GRADES 1–2 · ABOUT 10 MINUTES

Dinosaur Detective

Children listen to a clue, choose the animal it describes, and explain their thinking to a partner.

What children practice

- Listening for one important detail.
- Using a clue as evidence for a choice.
- Explaining a choice in a full sentence.
- Words that describe animals: crest, sail, frill, jaws, tail, wings.

What you need

- One iPad with Grandpa's Time Machine, with the volume up or headphones for a small group.
- Or no device: the picture cards on this page, printed.
- Optional: the Time Machine coloring sheet to take home.

The lesson

2 min	Show the picture cards, or the game on a shared screen. Read one clue aloud, such as “A tall sail on its back.” Ask: “Which part of the animal will you look for?”
5 min	Pairs take turns. One child listens to Grandpa's clue and chooses an animal. The partner asks, “How do you know?” Then they swap.
3 min	Each pair names or sketches the feature that gave the answer away. Close with: “What other clue would help you decide?”

“I think it's the ___ because I heard ___.”

How it plays in the game

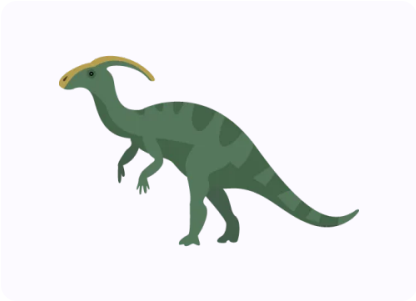
- Grandpa reads one clue aloud, and the same words appear on screen. Then he asks, “Which animal matches?”
- Children choose from three pictures. A wrong choice gives a small shake so they can try again. There is no failure message.
- One mystery plays each time the trip reaches the Cretaceous. Grown-ups can choose which activities are included in the game's Settings.
- Try it once yourself before class to see how long the trip takes on your iPad.

Without sound or devices

- Read the clue aloud from a card, or point to the clue text on the screen.
- Lay out three picture cards and ask children to point to the match.
- Children can make their own clue for a partner: “Mine has ___.”

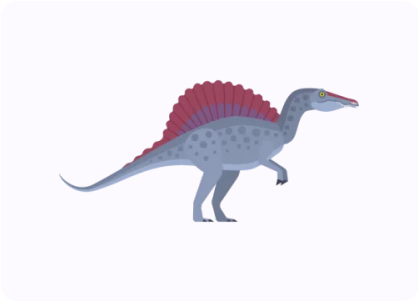
Picture clue cards

These are the six clues used in the game. Print them for a no-device version: read a clue aloud, and children point to the matching animal.



Parasaurolophus

“A curved crest on its head.”



Spinosaurus

“A tall sail on its back.”



Triceratops

“A fan-shaped frill behind its head.”



Tyrannosaurus Rex

“Big jaws with sharp teeth.”



Velociraptor

“A long, straight tail.”



Quetzalcoatlus

“Two wide wings.”

Not a dinosaur: a flying reptile that lived at the same time. That is why Grandpa asks which *animal* matches.

A suggested supplemental activity, not a prescribed curriculum or a claim of measured learning outcomes. Check it against your own curriculum. Dinosaur pictures by Connie Bossert, from Grandpa's Time Machine. Printable for classroom use.