

# POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

## Lesson Plan

### Stegosaurus Scutes

Lesson Plan for *Stegosaurus*

Grade 1

#### Objective

To help students combine information from two texts to explore what scientists know about the Stegosaurus's body parts and what is still unknown about the dinosaur.

#### Things Needed

- *Stegosaurus* book
- Access to the "Stegosaurus" web page on the Pop! website:  
<http://popbooksonline.com/dinosaurs/stegosaurus>

#### Before the Activity

Read *Stegosaurus* out loud to students. Open the "Stegosaurus" web page in your internet browser. Pull up the "Learn More" tab.

#### Activity

Open the book to Chapter 2 ("Spiky Giant"). Students should use the text and images in this chapter to answer the following questions:

- What was on the back of a Stegosaurus? (Answer: a row of bony plates)
- Did these bony plates point straight up or lie flat? (Answer: They pointed straight up.)
- What were these bony plates called? (Answer: scutes)

Then, read the caption on the "Learn More" web page. Ask students the following questions:

- Are scientists sure how the scutes were used? (Answer: No.)
- What are two possible ways the scutes might have been used? (Answers: to keep the dinosaur safe, to help the dinosaur stay cool)



Then, explain that scientists study dinosaur bones to make guesses about how the dinosaur lived. Scientists have studied several other Stegosaurus body parts and created theories about how they were used. Ask students to think back to the text and answer the following questions:

- How did Stegosaurus use its small teeth? (Answer: It ate small twigs and shrubs [p. 14].)
- How did Stegosaurus use its tail spike? (Answer: It kept predators away [p. 16].)

### **Evaluation**

Could students answer questions about Stegosaurus based on the information in the book and on the website?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.9).

