

# POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

## Lesson Plan

### Fossil Clues

Lesson Plan for *Triceratops*

Grade 1

### Objective

To help students explore how fossils help scientists make guesses about a dinosaur's behavior.

### Things Needed

- *Triceratops* book
- Access to the "Triceratops" web page on the Pop! website:  
<http://popbooksonline.com/dinosaurs/triceratops>
- Pencils and paper
- Whiteboard

### Before the Activity

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

### Activity

Turn to Chapter 4 ("Fossil Clues") of the *Triceratops* book. Page 16 says, "These fossils give scientists clues about how the dinosaur lived." Ask students the following questions to explore how fossil discoveries shaped scientists' ideas about Triceratops:

- At first, did scientists think Triceratops lived alone or in groups? (Answer: They thought it lived alone [p. 18].)
- What evidence from fossils caused them to think this? (Answer: All the known fossils were of individual dinosaurs [p. 18].)
- What evidence from fossils caused scientists to change their opinion? (Answer: They found fossils of three young dinosaurs together [p. 21].)
- What do scientists think now about how Triceratops lived? (Answer: They now think that young Triceratops traveled together [p. 21].)



Then, read the caption on the “Learn More” web page. Tell students that they will practice thinking like scientists by answering the two questions from the caption. Students will work in pairs to answer the caption’s questions, writing their answers on a sheet of paper:

- What features can you see? (Possible Answers: frill, horns, holes for the eyes, beak-like mouth, lots of short teeth, etc.)
- What do those features tell us about the Triceratops? (Possible Answer: Triceratops may have defended itself with its frill and horns.)

After a few minutes of working in pairs, students will share their answers with the class. Write their guesses down on the whiteboard.

### **Evaluation**

Could students use the text to answer the questions about fossil evidence? Could students use the image to make guesses about how the Triceratops lived?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.7, 1.8).

