

# Your Library Today



Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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## Doin' Dinosaurs? Research Tips

What happened to the dinosaurs? About 65 million years ago, they disappeared.

Some scientists believe a meteorite struck the earth. The impact of the crash threw millions of tons of dust in the air. This blocked sunlight. Skies darkened. Plants died because there was no sunlight.

Earth became cold and dark. Plant-eating dinosaurs died because they had no food. Meat eating dinosaurs died because there were no plant-eating dinosaurs left.

Researching dinosaurs? Then think like a librarian. When you search with computers, use the search words librarians use. Use **subject headings**.

Librarians do more than check books in and out. They help you find books. They help you find information.

They organize information by giving it subject headings. This helps tell us what a book is about. These subject headings tell librarians what numbers go on information books – **Dewey Numbers**.

Each subject heading has a Dewey Number. Information books are organized by subject. They are organized by what they are about. Librarians assign subject headings and then Dewey Numbers.

Information books are kept in order by their Dewey Numbers. This makes it easy to find information. Each subject is given a number to help you find it.

### Think Like A Librarian - Subject Headings

School and public librarians use **subject headings** to help you find information. These subject headings come from the book *Sears List of Subject Headings*. Most libraries use the same words to describe information. This makes it easy to find information in any library.

Librarians use these subject headings to put **Dewey Numbers** on books. Information books, nonfiction books, are on the shelves by Dewey Numbers. Want to learn more about dinosaurs? Then you will want to search using the subject headings and Dewey Numbers that librarians use. Finding information about dinosaurs can be fun. Here are some **subject headings & Dewey Numbers** to get you started:

- Dinosaurs (567.9)
- Prehistoric Animals (560)
- Dinosaurs – Eggs (567.9)
- **Note:** Libraries may use scientific names of species too, but few libraries will have many books for each type.
- Fossils (560)
- Geologic Time (551.7)

### Age of the Dinosaurs

The earth looked different more than 200 million years ago. Land masses on earth were together. There were not all the continents we see today. There was one large mass of land surrounded by water.

The earth is very old. Scientists say about 4.5 billion years. That is a long, long time. To learn about dinosaurs, you could start by studying how old the earth is. You could start by studying the early years when dinosaurs walked the earth. You can learn about dinosaurs by studying the periods of time when they lived.

### How Do We Know? Fossils

No one has seen a dinosaur. They lived a long time ago. Like all living things, the dinosaurs left something behind. They left fossils.

Fossils are very old, ancient remains of plants and animals. The fossils that dinosaurs left behind are millions of years old.

Most plant and animal remains rot away. Some are preserved or saved. Animal teeth, bones, and shells can be left behind. Plants and animals can leave prints. Remains that become fossils can harden. They can **petrify**. Ancient trees that turned to stone are called **petrified wood**.

Fossils have been found in rocks. These are remains that were left behind in mud and sand. Fossils can be found in ice, tar, and the sap of ancient trees.

Nature has many ways to preserve plant and animal remains. The earth has a crust made of minerals. Some minerals are found in water. Dead plants and animals may soak up water. Over time, the minerals harden to form fossils. You can learn about dinosaurs by studying fossils.