

DINOSAUR DIMENSIONS EXPEDITION

A Comprehensive Study Guide



An amazing journey into the world of amazing dinosaurs, thrilling adventure, and a touch of science...

*Featuring Professor Curt Courteous & the staff of the company
“Dinosaur Dimensions Laboratories”*

A Special Message to Educators and Teachers...

Thank you for allowing my character, “Professor Curt Courteous” and his talented staff to become a part of your students’ world of education! Our skilled team of professionals and I have put in many hours of research, construction, rehearsal, travel, planning, (and trial & error) to bring this exciting, well prepared, and educational presentation to your community!

I am delighted in the fact that this show IS educational, but is ALSO designed with some clean humour and a sense of adventure in mind. Children will be thrilled with the realism and lifelike antics of our animatronic dinosaurs, but all the while still learning about interesting dino-facts, terminology, and concepts that will help stimulate their minds and curiosity to learn more. The use of amazing on-stage science experiments, decorated sets, family-safe humor, and an abundance of some of the nation’s most realistic looking animatronic dinosaur puppets and costumes will make this a memorable journey into the world of both palaeontology and puppet mastery on the stage.

I hope that the resources contained within this comprehensive study guide will help you and your students prepare for the show, as well as continue the foundations built during the show through continued classroom discussion. The history of our world is FUN, and something that children should love, cherish, and implement in their everyday studies! Thank you for allowing my team and me the opportunity to help you in this process of discovery!

- Curt S. Strutz – **Strutz Entertainment**, *The Dinosaur Dimensions Experience*

The Theatre & Assembly Experience



Attending assembly and theatrical performances can be exciting for children, but can also be a new experience. Being aware of the surroundings and audience etiquette is important. Here are some good pointers for children at the show!

- Food, drink, chewing gum, toys, and phones are not to be brought or used during performances and should be left behind.
- Remain seated during the performance, and keep feet on the floor and hands to yourself. Standing and/or running around the theatre/assembly is not only distracting to others, but can be unsafe!
- Clapping, applause, and laughter are always welcome during live performances – in fact, that activity helps build energy into the show and lets performers know they are doing a good job! If you are enjoying the show – clap and laugh!
- Talk before and after the show – talking, using a phone, or texting during the show can be very distracting to those sitting around you, and even to the performers on stage. This goes for both students and adults in the audience.
- If you need to leave the assembly/theatre during the course of the show, please do so with as little noise and distraction as possible. Bathroom use should be done before or after the presentation.
- Our dinosaurs, though all puppets and costumes, can be a bit scary for the younger ones. It is important to know that none of the dinosaur animatronics will hurt anyone & are all theatrical puppets and props worked by trained puppeteers. The audience is always safe, regardless of how dangerous the dinosaurs may look.

Terms/Vocabulary Used During The Show



- **Herbivore:** The energy an object has due to its motion.
- **Omnivore:** The stored energy in an object because of its position or state.
- **Carnivore:** An interaction between two or more chemicals that produce one or more new chemicals or chemical variations.
- **Fossil:** The remains or traces of plants and animals that lived a long time ago.
- **Laboratory:** A substance that causes a chemical reaction to occur, but is not itself used in the reaction.
- **Vortex:** A mass of whirling fluid or air.

SPECIES OF DINOSAURS YOU MAY SEE DURING THE SHOW!

- **Triceratops:**
- **Velociraptor:**
- **Pteranodon:**
- **Dilophosaurus:**
- **Ankylosaurus:**
- **Bracheosaurus:**

The Importance of Safety Around Strange Animals



Practicing good safety habits is not only important to do around dinosaurs, but important in everyday life. Sure, our dinosaurs are not real, but safety around animals is always important to take into consideration. Some important things to remember around unfamiliar animals should include:

- **WILD ANIMALS:** Don't touch or get close to wild animals. They may look cuddly or cute, but they are not like regular pets and are not used to people. They might bite or attack if you approach them
- **EATING ANIMALS:** Never bother a pet or wild animal while it is eating or try to pull its food or water away.
- **INJURED ANIMALS:** If a pet looks like it is sick or has an injury, do not approach it. An animal, even one that is comfortable around humans, may get very upset and even bite when it is in pain or hurt. The best thing to do is tell an adult about the hurt animal so they can get help.
- **STRANGE PETS:** If you are at a friend's house or if you see somebody walking their dog or cat, always ask first before petting the pet. If they say that it is safe, approach the animal slowly and be sure to let the animal first sniff your hand.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS:** When handling any animal or pet, it is always a good idea to wash your hands after petting or feeding the animal. In addition, reptiles such as an iguana, lizard, snake, or salamander can carry bacteria like Salmonella on their skin.
- **ANIMALS WITH BABIES:** Never try to get near a pet or wild animal with its babies. Animal mothers are very defensive and will bite to protect their babies.

Classroom Ideas & Topics For Discussion



Dinosaur Footprints: Have the students grab classroom toy dinosaurs or ask them to bring some older ones from home (the bigger the better). Using tempera paints, brush the paint onto the bottom of the dinosaur feet then press them onto a sheet of paper – creating a pair of dinosaur footprints. This process can be repeated over and over again. Here are some questions for discussion...

- What type of environments could have helped to make dinosaur prints??
- What type of information could we get from a dinosaur footprint or track?
- Do different dinosaurs have different prints?

Digging for Fossils: We all know the little bags of dinosaurs we used to get at the grocery store or at Walmart as a child. How about making a fun and educational project for the kids? Using a muffin pan, fill each compartment up with water (food colour optional). Once the compartments are full of water, drop a plastic dinosaur inside of each compartment (you can get a bulk buy of these on Amazon, including ones that are skeleton type)! Once the “rocks” are frozen, students can act like palaeontologists and chip away the ice using safe tools, utensils, or popsicle sticks. Here are some questions for discussion...

- Why did the dinosaurs wind up fossilized in the soil/rocks???
- How careful does the fossil hunter have to be to ensure they do not break the encapsulated dinosaur? What if it was a real fossil?
- What is a palaeontologist and what do they do?

About the Performer



For over 20 years, performing artist Curt Strutz has been entertaining children, families, and adults from coast to coast across both the United States and Canada. His love and passion for entertaining has taken him to venues across the continent, and he has had the experience of performing at events such as the Illinois State Fair, Vancouver Boat Show, Wisconsin State Fair, New York National Boat Show, South Dakota State Fair and various locations of Jellystone Campgrounds, KinderCare Child Care Centers, Cabela's Retail Stores, Great Wolf Lodge Resorts, and Bass Pro Shops.

The most recent show added to his roster, Dinosaur Dimensions, has quickly grown to become the most sought after shows he has done to date. Now performing as "Professor Curt Courteous," Curt is seen at Theatres, Opera Houses, Performing Art Centers, and Grandstand Stages – this program has given him the opportunity to both educate and entertain children and their families/teachers at a whole new level! The show co-stars his family members, as well as other trained professional puppeteers on the stage!

Curt appreciates your attendance at the Dinosaur Dimensions Expedition! and all of the performers hope that you enjoy these "bigger than life" characters AND dinosaurs as many folks already have!