

Lesson 3 Design a dinosaur key

AGES 9-11

Objectives

- To construct a key.
- To make modifications to the key in the light of research.

Subject references Science

- Make and use a key. (NC: KS2 Sc2 4a)

Resources and preparation

- Make copies of page 14, 'Spot the dinosaurs' and page 15, 'A dinosaur key' so you have one of each for each child.
- Provide information books containing pictures of dinosaurs (including Gallimimus).
- The children will need scissors.

What to do

- Give each of the children a copy of the 'Spot the dinosaurs' sheet and let them cut out the pictures. Ask them to select which pictures are the dinosaurs and then to sort the dinosaurs into five different groups numbered from 1–5. Check the children's choices against the answers given in Notes on photocopiables, under 'Spot the dinosaurs', on page 8.
- Now ask the children to construct a key in the form of a tree diagram, into which each of the groups can be fitted. Explain that in a key like this, a question is asked to which there are usually just two

possible answers. Therefore, the key could be started by asking the question: *Do they have long necks or short necks?* The children would then find that they have one group (for example, group 5) on its own under 'Long necks' and all the other groups under 'Short necks'. Help the children to continue asking themselves questions until the key is complete. Check their answers by showing them the sheet 'A dinosaur key'.

- Alternatively, give each child a copy of 'A dinosaur key' and ask them to arrange the dinosaurs on it.

Extension

Let the children look through information books on dinosaurs to test their key against the pictures shown there. Help them to revise the key to take into account any dinosaur shapes that they think do not fit it. For example, they may consider that Gallimimus has a long neck and tail and has two short front legs.

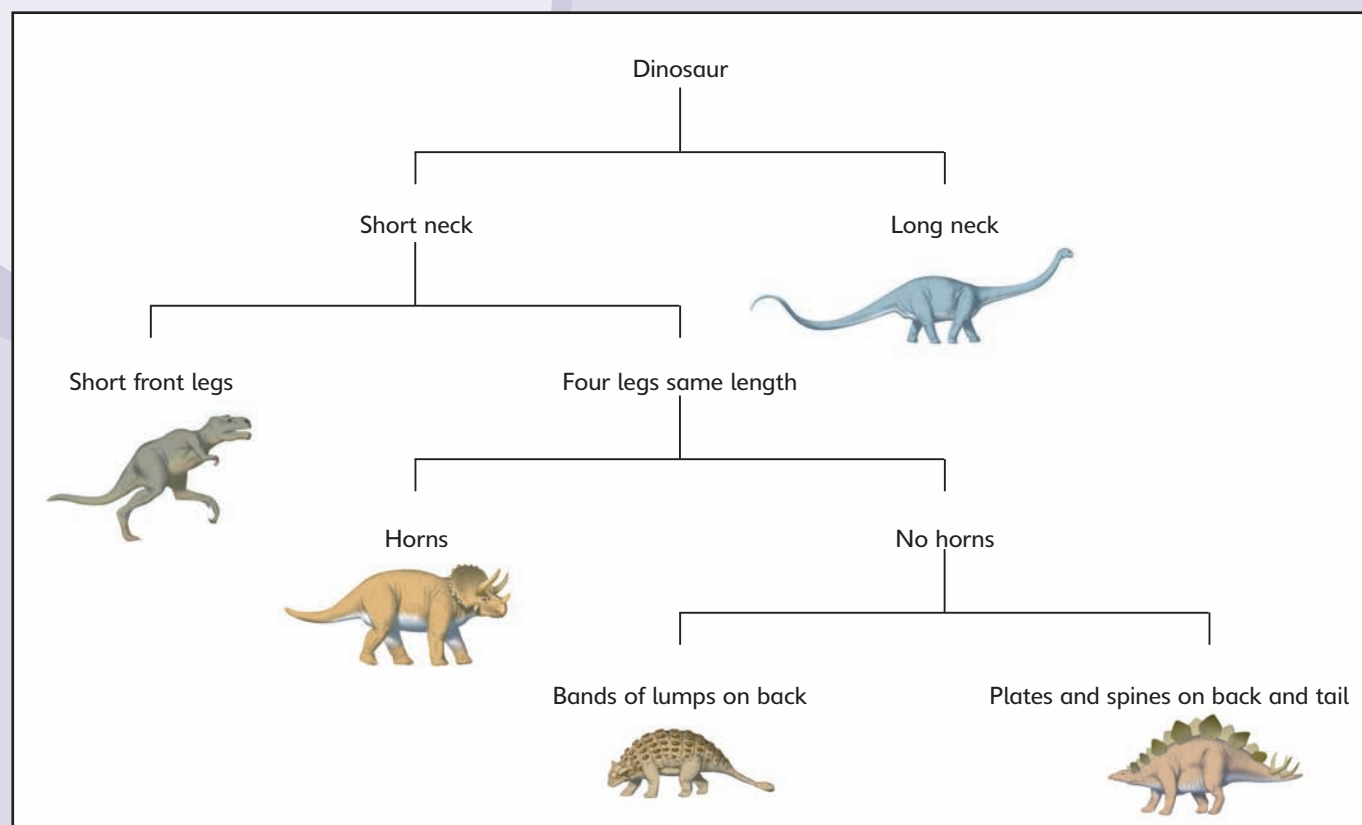


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