

Lesson 1 Dinosaur eggs

Resources and preparation

- Make copies of page 61, 'Dinosaur eggs', for each group.
- Prepare a model dinosaur nest, comprising of a bowl of dry sand in which up to six table tennis balls (eggs) have been buried, plus a large tray to hold the bowl.
- You will need two spoons and two one-inch paint brushes with soft hairs, a metre rule or tape measure and chalk, and a large lump of Plasticine for each group.
- An outdoor space is also required.
- For the Extension, you will need an egg and a bowl or jar of vinegar.
- This lesson can be adapted as part of your Dinosaur Day.

What to do

- Show the children the picture of Maiasaura looking after its nest. Tell them that nests can be found by very careful digging that doesn't destroy the eggs.
- Present the class with the model nest and ask for two volunteers to 'dig' out the eggs using the brushes and spoons. Encourage the children to predict how many eggs are in the nest.
- Let two children dig until the first egg is found, then let two more children have a go, and so on. (The sand can be moved from the bowl to the tray.) Count all the eggs that have been retrieved and see who

predicted the correct number.

- Outside, mark out a circle that is two metres in diameter. Tell the children that this is the size of the nest produced by the dinosaur shown on the photocopiable sheet. Draw some ovals about 20cm long in a ring inside the 'nest' and tell the children that this is how Maiasaura arranged her eggs.
- Explain that baby dinosaurs grow inside eggs like the chicks of birds. Show the children how to make a model baby dinosaur in its egg. Shape two lumps of Plasticine into hollow ovals, and another piece into the shape of a baby dinosaur, as shown on the sheet. Hinge the two halves of the 'egg' at one side, and place the baby dinosaur inside. The children can then open and close their egg to reveal the baby dinosaur.

Extension

Tell more confident learners that over time the inside of an egg turns to fossil but the shell remains the same. Palaeontologists remove the shell by placing the egg in a weak acid. Demonstrate this by placing a real egg in vinegar and leave it for three days. By then the shell should have dissolved leaving a leathery skin containing the rest of the egg. The dissolved shell enables the contents to be examined.

AGES 5–7

Objectives

- To understand that dinosaurs laid eggs.
- To understand that some dinosaurs made nests and reared their young in them for a short time.

Subject references Science

- Know that humans and other animals can produce offspring that grow into adults. (NC: KS1 Sc2 2f)
- Know that non-reversible changes may result in a new material that may be useful. (NC: KS2 Sc3 2f)

