## Lesson Plan: Dinosaur Parenting

**Standard:** Kindergarten A & ET 4.2.1 7 .2

**Objectives**: Students will learn:

* the difference between theorpods and sauropods eggs
* about oviraptor and maiasaura dinosaur parenting behavior
* Students will learn that dinosaurs hatched from eggs
* Discuss dinosaur nesting behavior and how it compares to birds
* Sorting candy into theropod or sauropod eggs by counting and totaling
* Theorpods were meat eating and sauropod were plant eating dinosaurs
* A group of eggs in a nest is called a clutch

**Anticipatory Set-** Read: *The Maiasaura Nests* by Jack Horner to students

**Materials:** worksheets, models of maiasaura and oviraptor dinosaurs, a big Russet potato and a cantaloupe, paper plates, jelly beans and sphere candy like miniature Gobstopper.

**Background Teacher Information:**

**Oviraptor-** (Theorpods) were once thought to steal eggs from other dinosaurs; however they were actually protecting eggs. Thus they were mistakenly named as oviraptor which means egg thief. Clutch size approximately 28.

**Maiasaura-** (Sauropods) means good mother because it is thought she brought food back to her hatchlings. Clutch size approximately 11.

**Dinosaur Eggs**- were much like bird eggs, composed of shell, albumen and yolk and if fertilized had an embryo, allantois and amniotic sac. Dinosaur eggs come in different shapes. This lesson focuses on two shapes: elongated oval and spherical.

***Books: A Nest of Dinosaurs: The Story of Oviraptor by*** [Mark A. Norell](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=ntt_athr_dp_sr_1?_encoding=UTF8&field-author=Mark%20A.%20Norell&ie=UTF8&search-alias=books&sort=relevancerank) details the story of oviraptor where the find of a partial fossil of an oviraptor still crouching over its nest of eggs in a protective parenting posture after 70 million years reversed the previously held theory that had given this creature its name.

***The Maiasaura Nests*** by Jack Horner young readers will follow the exciting adventures of Horner as he climbs to the top of Egg Mountain in Montana to identify a new species of duck-billed dinosaurs.

***Maia: A Dinosaur Grows Up Dinosaur Babies***by Penner

**Procedure:**

1. Read one of the stories mentioned
2. Let students play with dinosaur models. ( The model, Baby Louie, an oviraptor in its shell- is a good model found at the Tate Museum gift store or online)
3. Explain to students that there are different shapes and types of dinosaur eggs
4. Demonstrate that oviraptor eggs were shaped like Russet potatoes. Let kids pass potato around.
5. Explain that the maiasaura eggs where shaped like cantaloupe and let kids pass around.
6. Ask students what they think oviraptor means, then share that it means egg thief, but the oviraptor was misnamed as it was later discovered that oviraptors protected dinosaur eggs and did not steal them.
7. Ask students what they think maiasaura means, explain that it means a good mother. Ask them why they think that is. Maiasaura was a good mother and is speculated to have brought food back to their young after they hatched.
8. Next hand out the worksheets and explain that students will sort their candy into the different shapes on their paper plates (so they do not roll off their desk).
9. Students will write their name on worksheet.
10. Students will count and write totals in the total fields on worksheets. After the teacher has checked totals, students can eat their candy or throw away.
11. While students wait for everyone to finish, they can draw a picture of a oviraptor and maiasaura on the back of their worksheet

**Enrichment Activity:** Take your students to the Tate Geological Museum in Casper, Wyoming to see dinosaur fossils. A Tate educator would be happy to give your class a tour.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Sort the candies into Theropod Eggs or Sauropod Eggs

Theropod Eggs

**Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

After you have finished counting and totaling, you may eat your candies!

Sauropod Eggs

**Total\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**