## Lesson Plan: Dinosaur Names: Root Origins

**Standards:** 8th Grade Science R 8.1.4

**Objective:** Students will:

* Understand how scientists named dinosaurs
* Identify whether dinosaur root words are Greek, Latin or other
* Will hypothesize different dinosaur names based on physicality

**Background:** Most dinosaurs are named after unique physical characteristics based on Greek and Latin word origins, the location they were found, or the person that discovered them.

**Teacher information for extra credit question:** The word dinosaur literally means "terrible, powerful, wondrous lizards." The word became popular after biologist and paleontologist, Sir Richard Owen coined the term "Dinosauria" in 1841. The word dinosaur derives from two greek words (deinos) "terrible, powerful, wondrous" + (sauros) "lizard".

**Name of dinosaurs on worksheet**

**Top Left:** Tyrannosaurus Rex- **Top Right:** Triceratops

**Bottom Left:** Stegosaurus **Bottom Right:**Apatosaurus (commonly known as a Brontosaurus)

**Materials:** Worksheet attached and access to Internet for research purposes

**Procedure:**

1. Talk about how scientific names are given. Give examples of medical and biology terminology and share background information.
2. Give worksheet to students to research and answer the word origins
3. Next have students create names for the pictured dinosaur by using the dinosaur root words
4. Compare their created names to the names the scientists gave them.

## Dinosaur Name Roots Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Look up the word root and identify whether it is Greek, Latin, or other origin.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dinosaur Root** | **Origin** |
| Allo-other  |  |
| Ankylo- stiffened |  |
| Apato- deceptive |  |
| Archeo-old |  |
| Brachio- arm |  |
| Bronto- thunder |  |
| Campylo- curved |  |
| Ceohalo- head, brain |  |
| Cerat-horned |  |
| Coelo-hollow |  |
| Compso-pretty |  |
| Daspleto- horrid, frightful |  |
| Derm- skin |  |
| Di- two |  |
| Dino, Deinos-terrible |  |
| Diplo- double |  |
| Echino-spiked |  |
| Elasmo- plated |  |
| Euoplo- well armored |  |
| Iththy-fish |  |
| Kristos- separated |  |
| Maia- good mother |  |
| Man- hand |  |
| Mega- huge |  |
| Micro- small |  |
| Mosa- from Meuse River in France |  |
| Nodo- lumpy |  |
| Notho- false |  |
| Odon-tooth |  |
| Ops- face |  |
| Orthithos- bird |  |
| Ovi-egg |  |
| Pachy- thick |  |
| Paleo- old |  |
| Placenti- like a round flat cake |  |
| Platy-flat |  |
| Post- after |  |
| Proto- first |  |
| Pteryx- wing |  |
| Raptor- robber |  |
| Rex- king |  |
| Rhychus-snout |  |
| Saur, saurus-lizard |  |
| Spino-thorn or backbone |  |
| Stego- roof |  |
| Struthio-ostrich |  |
| Suchus- crocodile |  |
| Tri-three |  |
| Tyrano- tyrant |  |
| Veloci-Speedy |  |
| Xiph-sword |  |
| **Find four of your own dinosaur root words** | **Origin** |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |

Extra Credit: What is the word origin of dinosaur? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Determine the names of these dinosaurs based on their physical traits by using the root origins above. Do your names match what scientists named them?



