

GEO 302D Age of Dinosaurs Group Project

General Description

There are two parts to this project; first, your group will provide a general overview of a taxonomic group within Dinosauria using a Powerpoint presentation, and second, a written Dinosaur Media Critic exercise.

Part 1) PowerPoint Presentation

The presentation should last 10 to 12 minutes, and **all group members must participate**. Visual aids such as pictures, maps, and diagrams are highly encouraged. A digital copy of your PowerPoint presentation must be provided to your TA before your presentation; this may be a CD, by thumb drive, or by email. Cite at least three scientific sources; these may include lecture and lab materials, books, and journal articles, but NO internet resources may be used.

Address the following questions in your presentation (required):

- When and where did they live?
- What are some of the synapomorphies that diagnose your clade?
- What is the typical morphology of your group?
- What is the relationship of your group to other dinosaurs? What are the relationships within your clade? (Include cladograms)
- Are there any controversies or uncertainties involving your group (i.e. about their diet, behavior, or which species belong in the group)?
- What is a popular media portrayal of your group and how is it incorrect? (see below)

Other topics you may wish to include for the interest of your classmates may include (optional):

- How did members of the group live, i.e:
 - Were they social?
 - Did they nest?
 - What did they eat?

Rubric for the PowerPoint Presentation

Material thoroughly covered	_ / 6
Member Participation	_ / 2
References	_ / 2

Part 2) Dinosaur Media Critic Write-Up

Choose a toy or any image of a dinosaur(s) that is a member of your clade: if an image is used, it must be of ok quality (legible) and you must print out the image. Toys are easily found at dollar stores and you can give them to a relative for the holidays. One hard-copy of the write-up, approximately 250-300 words, must be turned in for the group.

What you do: Steps 1 and 2 - Dino identification; steps 3 and 4 - Dino critique

1. Observe and describe all aspects of your new dinosaur specimen (character, morphology, skin, posture). If two dinosaurs are interacting in your image, how are they interacting? What is the setting? Do we know what the time period is supposed to be according to the maker of the image or toy?
2. Identify your find (or if using an image with multiple dinosaurs- choose one for steps 2 and 3). Mention all of the characters we discussed as synapomorphies of the groups we covered (i.e., Diapsida, Archosauria, dinosaur clades).
3. Discuss what aspects of the toy or image are inconsistent or wrong for your identified clade. Anatomy? Time period? Interaction, if using an image?
4. Discuss what attributes of your find are unknown in dinosaurs or specifically for your identified dinosaur lineage.
5. If you use sources other than those for the PowerPoint presentation, please include them with your write-up.

Rubric for Dinosaur Media Critic

Material thoroughly covered	_ / 4
Spelling/Length	_ / 1

Other Notes

- Keep in mind names of groups change spelling and the numbers of suborders, families, genera, and species change as new fossils are discovered. Try to provide as up-to-date information as possible.
- Libraries are your best resource, especially the Geology Library (4th floor of the Geology building) and the Life Science Library (Main Building, room 220). The website for the University libraries is: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>
- You should start your research by looking through The Dinosauria, which has been placed on course reserves in the Geology Library.
- When constructing your References sections, you may want to consult the following website <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. The contents list at the end of the page contains links on how to write references for different media.

Due Date

Presentations will be given during your regularly scheduled lab time the week of **NOVEMBER 16**. A copy of your presentation must be in your TA's possession by **10 AM** the day **before** your presentation and the Dinosaur Media Critic Write-up should be turned in the day of your presentation.