

Table of Contents

Setting the Scene	
The Environment	5
Introducing the Characters	
The Dinosaurs.....	20
Pictures of the Past	
The Fossils.....	50
Afterword.....	63
Award Certificate	64







Setting the Scene

Discussion

Ask the children to look around and name the things they see in their world. Tell them not to look at man-made items (e.g., toys, houses, cars, streets) but rather to look at natural phenomena (e.g., water, sun, plants, animals, rocks). Ask them what the world would be like if there were no people in the environment. Show them pictures (without people or animals) of giant sequoias, fern grottoes, volcanoes, rivers, rain forests, marshes, etc., emphasizing that the world was warmer and wetter in the age of dinosaurs. Use the key words to guide the discussion back over time.

Key Words

- **environment:** The world around us.
- **prehistoric:** A long time ago starting before people were in the world.
- **volcano:** A special kind of mountain. 
- **eruption:** A volcanic explosion of lava and ash. 
- **lava:** Hot, melted rock. 
- **volcanic rock:** Cold, hard lava.
- **pumice stone:** Cold lava that has bubbles trapped inside. This stone is so light, it may float in water.
- **extinct volcano:** A volcano that will never erupt again. 

Setting the Scene

Crafts

- Make a Volcano Model and “Erupt” a Volcano, page 9.
- Make a Scene (prehistoric park diorama), page 10.
- Make a Big Scene (bulletin board), page 11.

Enrichment/Language Activities

Science Lab/Study Center

- This center should be set up, built upon and maintained throughout all studies and activities in this book.

Suggested Materials

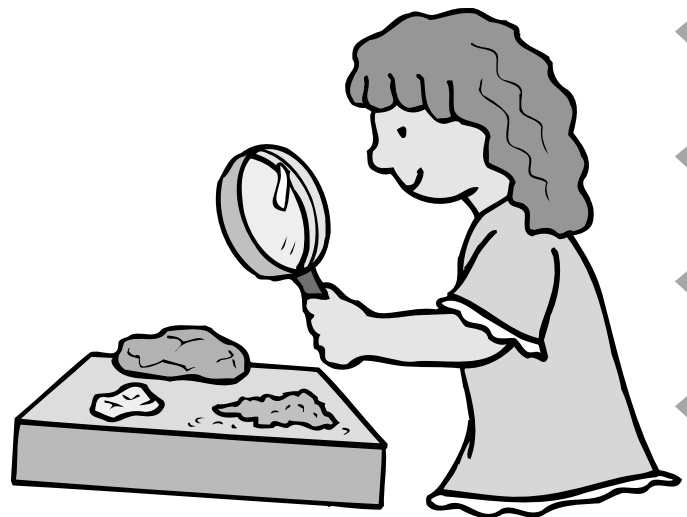
eyedropper	magnifying glass
pumice stone	volcanic rock
other rocks	volcanic ash
paper	crayons
pencils	bowl of water

Resource Materials

- Magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Ranger Rick* and *Smithsonian*. Books from the library on volcanoes, plants and other aspects of prehistoric environments.

Suggested Activities & Experiments for Children

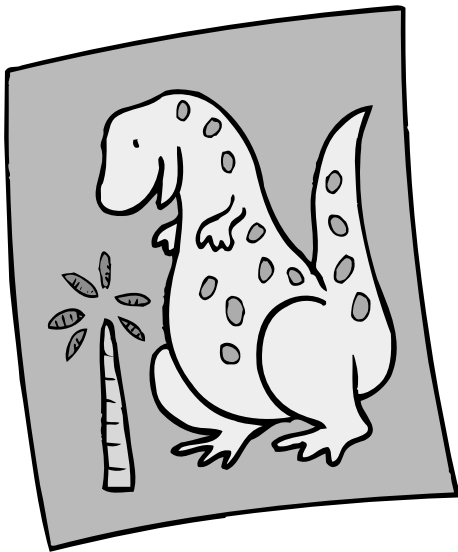
1. Place rocks in water to determine if any will float.
2. Place drops of water on the rocks to determine if any will absorb water.
3. Examine rocks and ash with a magnifying glass.
4. Study pictures of volcanoes, prehistoric plants, etc., using resource materials.
5. Draw and/or color pictures of prehistoric environments, rocks, volcanoes, etc.



Setting the Scene

Booklet

- Worksheets are presented in each of the three sections of this book. Make a cover out of construction paper or wallpaper and decorate with pictures or stickers, or trace a dinosaur (pages 36-39) and draw a palm tree trunk on the cover. Children then dip their thumbs in the paint and make prints on the dinosaur for skin texture. Use the sides of their little fingers dipped in paint for the palm leaves. See pages 12-14 for specific "Setting the Scene" worksheets.



Mail Call

Suggested Materials

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| paper | envelopes |
| small bags | boxes |
| cards | tape |
| string | rubber bands |
| stickers or other types of stamps | |

Preparation

- Set up a classroom "mailbox" and pick a day of the week to be Mail Day. Each week appoint a student to be the mail carrier. The mail may be either individual letters, cards, packages or one letter, card or package for the class. Address as you would any letter or package. See pages 15-17 for specific "Setting the Scene" mail.

Snack Time

- See pages 18 and 19 for recipes.

