

# Natural History Museum Dino Directory Writing Sequence

Year 5/6

HIAS English Team  
Spring 2020  
Final version

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# Using the Home Learning Materials

## The materials

- Each writing booklet contains a sequence of 5 lessons.
- You should set aside time to complete each of the lessons in order.
- Each lesson will take no more than 30 mins to complete.

## How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each lesson has a simple explanation and examples to get you started.

## How can parents, carers and siblings help?

- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Collect interesting words and phrases on paper / post-its as they read
- Talk to your children about their ideas before they write
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

## 5 day writing sequence

This writing sequence uses the Natural History Museum's Dino Directory website:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory.html>

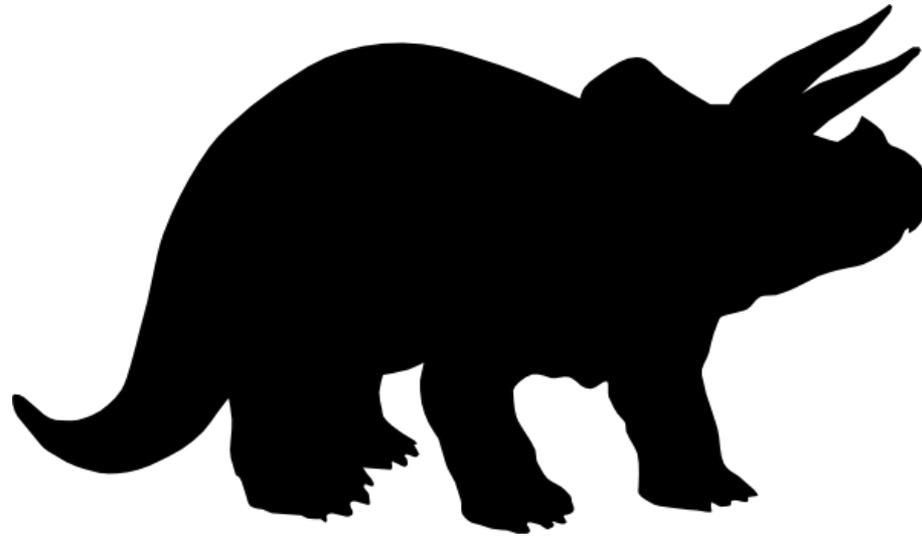
### Teaching sequence:

- 1) Response to Reading
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Exploring the Writing
- 4) Grammar Practice and Play
- 5) Writing Challenges

Further printable resources are available at the end of the sequence.

Read the *Triceratops* entry in the Dino Directory.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/triceratops.html>



# Lesson 1 – Response to Reading

Read the *Triceratops* entry in the Dino Directory. Use the links in the article to help clarify vocabulary, for example click on ‘Late Cretaceous’.

**As you read make notes:**

- Do you have any questions?
- Is there any vocabulary you don’t understand?
- Have you read a text like this before?

**Read the text again before you answer the following questions:**

What does ‘herbivorous’ mean?

How do we know that male *Triceratops* used to fight each other?

What are the advantages of prey animals moving in herds? Give two advantages from the text.

The text tells us that Triceratops remains “are usually found individually, suggesting they may have spent much of their lives alone.” Choose one word from the three below to complete the sentence:

**This suggests that Triceratops were \_\_\_\_\_ creatures**

**communal**

**solitary**

**friendly**

# Lesson 2 – Vocabulary

Now read the *Tyrannosaurus* and *Diplodocus* entries in the Dino Directory:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/tyrannosaurus.html> and

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/diplodocus.html>

All of the entries feature useful words that we would be able to use in our own dinosaur entry.

Choose your own words from the website or use the examples below to create vocabulary grids like this:

Word	Definition
Use in a sentence	

scavenge	search for food in waste
The Tyrannosaurus used its sense of smell to locate dead animals to scavenge.	

<i>Possible vocabulary</i>			
reputation	fossilised	encounter	relatives
vertebrae	striking	fearsome	specimen

# Lesson 3- Exploring the Writing

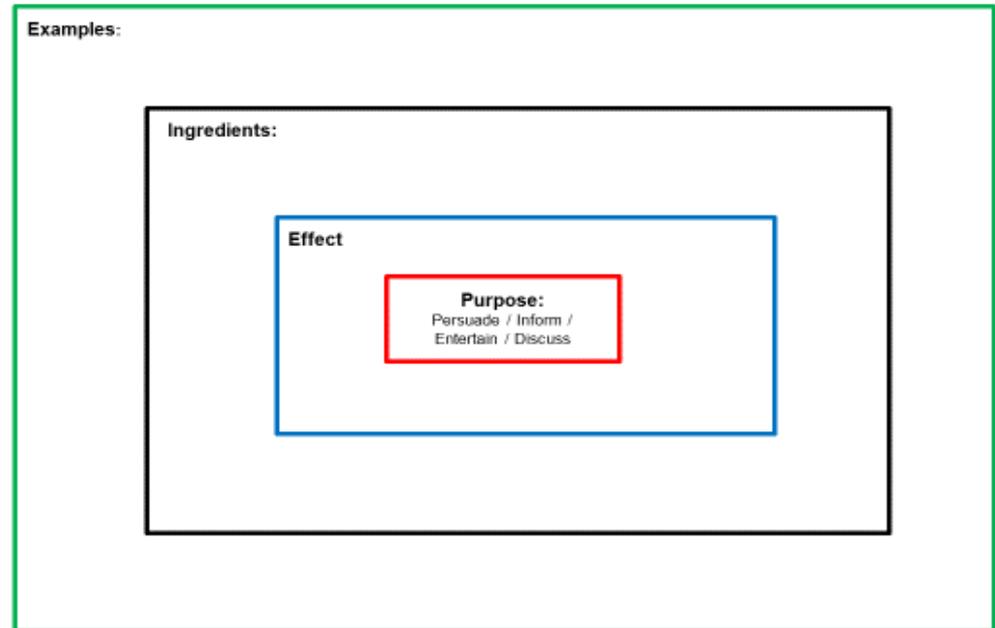
Read your favourite entry in the Dino Directory.

The purpose of the writing is to inform.

The author wants the reader to learn specific details about the dinosaur and to maintain the reader's interest.

How has the author achieved this?  
What vocabulary, grammar and punctuation ingredients have they used?

Collect examples.



## Lesson 4 – Grammar Practice and Play

With its 3 horns, a parrot-like beak and a large frill that could reach nearly 1 metre (3 feet) across, the *Triceratops* skull is one of the largest and most striking of any land animal.

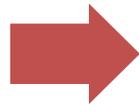
The horns could have been used to fend off attacks from *Tyrannosaurus*. A partial *Triceratops* fossil collected in 1997 has a horn that was bitten off, with bite marks that match *Tyrannosaurus*. The fossil shows that the horn healed after being bitten, so at least some *Triceratops* survived these encounters.

Puncture marks on fossil frills show that male *Triceratops* also used their horns to fight each other, probably to impress females.

# Lesson 4 – Grammar Practice and Play

## Explain:

- Why does the author use brackets in this extract?
- Why does the author use the words “of any land animal”, rather than “of any dinosaur”.



## Change the underlined sections:

- Select synonyms for the underlined words.
- Try arranging the information in the opening paragraph in a different way by experimenting with sentence structure.



## Create your own:

- Imagine that you have unearthed a new dinosaur species. Imitate the author’s style by writing a short entry for the Dino Directory about your discovery. Don’t forget to include yourself in the “named by” section of the taxonomic details!

## Lesson 5 – Writing Challenges

Using what you have learnt so far, choose one of the following three challenges to complete:

- 1) Imagine that a Mythical Beasts Directory is being created. Write an entry for a mythical beast of your choice (or your own creation) in the style of the Dino Directory.
- 2) Using the information from the Dino Directory, create a top three 'most deadly dinosaurs' page, justifying the reasons for your ranking with evidence from the website and other sources.
- 3) Imagine that you have travelled in time and encounter one of these incredible creatures! Write an account of your meeting with a dinosaur. This could be expanded into a full story.

**Examples:**

**Ingredients:**

**Effect**

**Purpose:**

Persuade / Inform /  
Entertain / Discuss

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## HIAS English team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

**During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.**

For further details referring to English, please contact:  
Emma Tarrant : [emma.tarrant@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.tarrant@hants.gov.uk)

For further details on the full range of services available please contact us using the following details:

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