

The Trouble with T-rex



Words and Phrases We'll Need to Know

the authors of a study

pop influences

misconception

they abandoned that idea

decades ago

depicted

a bird-like posture

pitched forward

massive

led

update

largely

researchers

soaked up

pop culture

conclude

paleontology

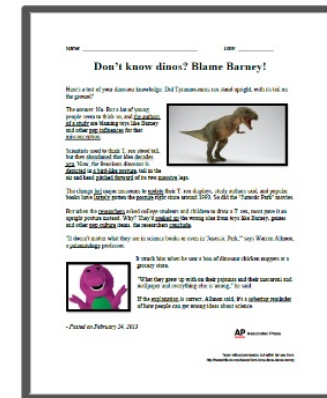
explanation

it's a sobering reminder

Don't Know Dinos? Blame Barney!

Taken from: Tween Tribune.com

Here's a test of your dinosaur knowledge: Did Tyrannosaurus rex stand upright, with its tail on the ground?



The answer: No. But a lot of young people seem to think so, and the authors of a study are blaming toys like Barney and other pop influences for that misconception.

Scientists used to think T. rex stood tall, but they abandoned that idea decades ago. Now, the ferocious dinosaur is depicted in a bird-like posture, tail in the air and head pitched forward of its two massive legs.

The change led major museums to update their T. rex displays, study authors said, and popular books have largely gotten the posture right since around 1990. So did the "Jurassic Park" movies.

But when the researchers asked college students and children to draw a T. rex, most gave it an upright posture instead. Why? They'd soaked up the wrong idea from toys like Barney, games and other pop culture items, the researchers conclude.

"It doesn't matter what they see in science books or even in 'Jurassic Park,'" says Warren Allmon, a paleontology professor.

It struck him when he saw a box of dinosaur chicken nuggets at a grocery store.

"What they grew up with on their pajamas and their macaroni and wallpaper and everything else is wrong," he said.

If the explanation is correct, Allmon said, it's a sobering reminder of how people can get wrong ideas about science.

Series of Events



Brave
Clarion voice

Series of Events

Researchers

1
People believed that T-rex walked with its tail on the ground and head high.

RRR



new info.

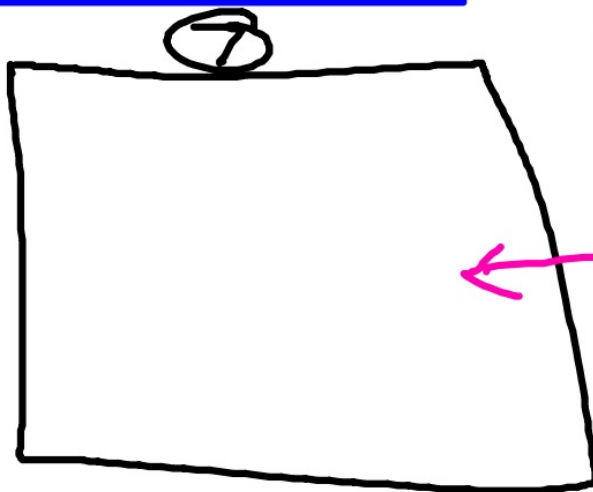
2
People believe that T-rex walked with its tail up and its head "pitched forward".

3
Museums changed their dinosaur displays to show the true dinosaur posture.

4
Warren Allmon saw dino-nuggets and wondered if pop-culture was possibly giving people bad information.

5
Researchers asked kids and college students to draw dinosaurs and they did it using the pop-culture information instead of scientific information.

6
Researchers of a study explained the reason why kids have the wrong ideas about dinosaurs. (Reason = pop-culture)



What do you think will happen next?!

Problem Solving Process

(Miss Kelly's Version)

Problem Finding (Find it.) → **Solution Finding** (Solve it.) → **Solution Using** (Use it or "Sell it".)

1. **Get to know the whole situation.** Read about it, hear about it, think about it, study it, ask questions about it, gather data about it, list the "Problem Family", see it from multiple perspectives, etc.
2. **Choose one problem to solve & describe it well.** Select one great, big, juicy problem to solve and write a short but detailed description of it. This is called your Problem Statement.

3. Brainstorm many, varied, and unique solutions.
4. Figure out how you will know what would make a good solution? (Develop criteria.)
5. Compare your five best solutions & choose one. (Use a Decision Making Matrix or another tool.)

6. **Use It:** Use your solution and solve the problem. If you're not there in person, imagine using your solution and write a detailed description about how your solution "worked".

OR

Describe & Convince: Write a detailed description of your final solution in a way that will convince others to agree that your solution is the best option.

Solving a Problem Using the Problem Solving Steps

1. Identify the Problem:

~~cause~~ Pop-culture producers are largely using incorrect scientific information. Our children are growing up with the wrong information.

2. Generate Ideas:

- AT EACH FACTORY WHERE THEY MAKE POP-CULTURE ITEMS THERE MUST BE A SCIENTIST THERE TO ANSWER Q

Our Ideas

Incentive - Pay them to stop.

Reporters / News Programs - publishing stories to increase awareness of the problem.

Scientists - Traveling and giving speeches to spread the word and convince the producers.


Make more "right stuff" (like Jurassic Park) - increase the use of real facts all over the place.

Close down factories who won't fix or change their products.

Create websites - fun & games with lots of correct information.

Go to where it's wrong and **fix it.**

Develop Criteria:
Evaluate the Ideas:
Describe and Convince:

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	Criteria			
	FAST	CHEAP	POPULAR	TOTAL
Solutions				
Scientists - traveling - speeches	2	1	3	6
More Right Stuff - toys, websites, You Tube	1	2	5	8
Reporters/ News	4	5	4	13
Close Down	5	3	1	9
Fix It	3	4	2	9