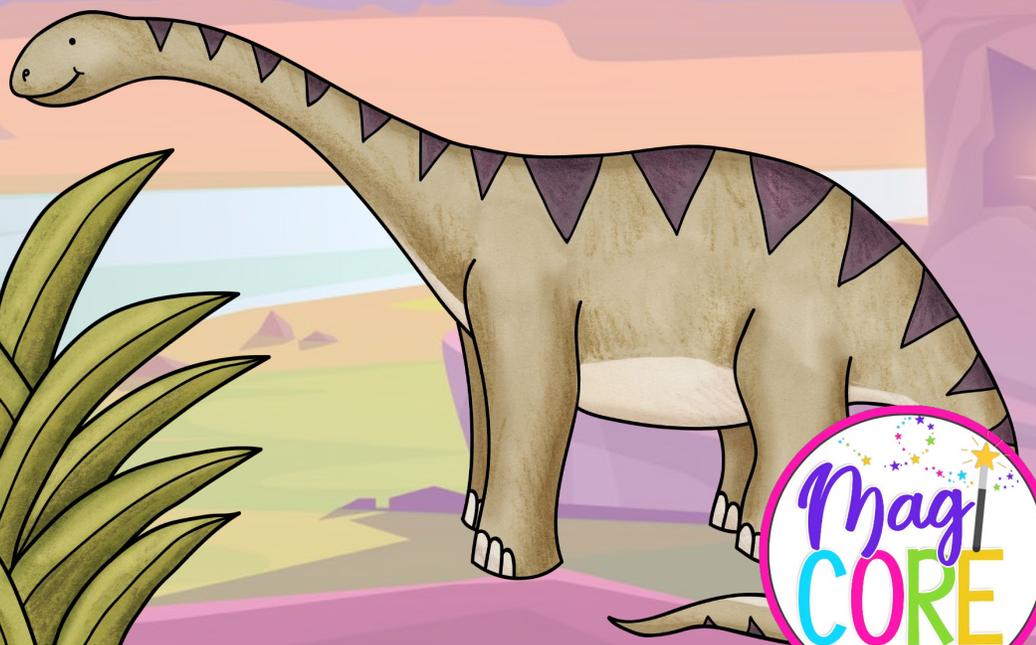
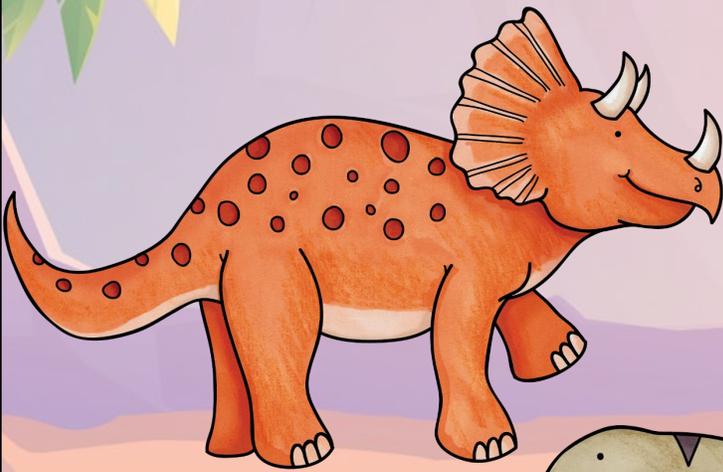
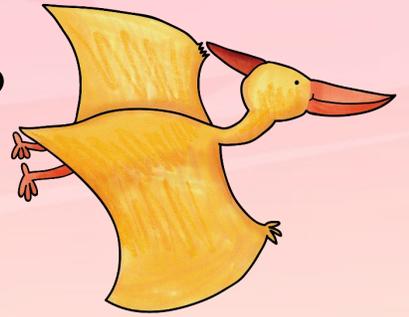


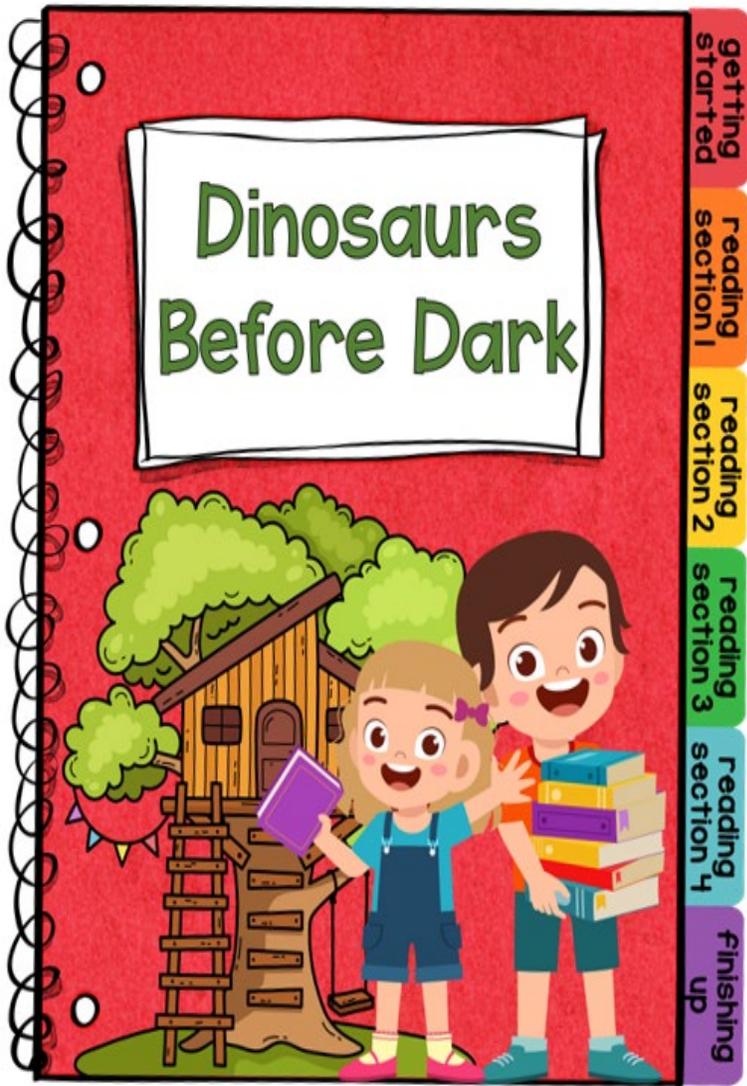
# NOVEL GUIDE

## Dinosaurs Before Dark



Print & Google Slides





getting started  
 reading section 1  
 reading section 2  
 reading section 3  
 reading section 4  
 finishing up

© Julie Beebe

reading section 1

## "Pretend" Versus "Real"

Annie and Jack, the main characters, are introduced in the first paragraphs of the novel. Reread the first page of Chapter I, then answer the questions below.

1. What information do we find out about Annie and Jack right away?

Annie	Both	Jack

2. What do "pretend" and "real" mean to you? Are they opposites? Can some things be both real and pretend? Describe your opinion.

"Annie loved pretend stuff. But Jack was eight and a half. He liked real things."

© Julie Beebe



reading  
section 2

# Show What You Know!

- Who is the more bold, trusting character in this section?
  - Jack
  - the Pteranodon
  - Henry
  - Annie
- What does Jack write notes about in his journal?
  - How long the Pteranodon's crest is.
  - How kind the Pteranodon is.
  - How the Pteranodon feels to touch.
  - How high off the ground the treehouse is.
- When Annie and Jack are trying to figure out where they are, what do they disagree on?
  - Annie thinks that they are in the Triassic Period. Jack thinks they are in the Jurassic Period.
  - Annie wants to go home. Jack wants to ask the Pteranodon.
  - Annie thinks the Pteranodon will tell them where they are. Jack thinks the Tyrannosaurus Rex will tell them.
  - Annie wants to ask the Pteranodon. Jack thinks that is a dangerous idea.
- How long ago did the Pteranodon that Annie and Jack meet live?
  - 27 thousand years ago
  - 146 million years ago
  - 65 million years ago
  - 251 million years ago
- Why do you think Annie names the Pteranodon "Henry?"



A large, empty rectangular box with a light purple background, intended for the student to write their answer to question 5.

This is the end of section 2. Get ready for section 3 by reading Chapters 5 and 6.



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**VIRTUAL NOVEL GUIDE**

**Dinosaurs Before Dark**

**Examining Pteranodon**  
[Chapter 6, first entry in the "Flying Creatures" section, titled "Pteranodon"]  
After learning about Pteranodon in the non-fiction *Dinosaurs Before Dark* companion, *Fact Tracker: Dinosaurs*, show what you know about the incredible Flying Pteranodon!

The term "anatomy" refers to bodies and body structures. Based on what you learned in the *Dinosaur Fact Tracker*, what are three things you know about the anatomy of a Pteranodon?

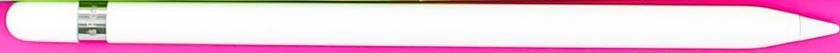
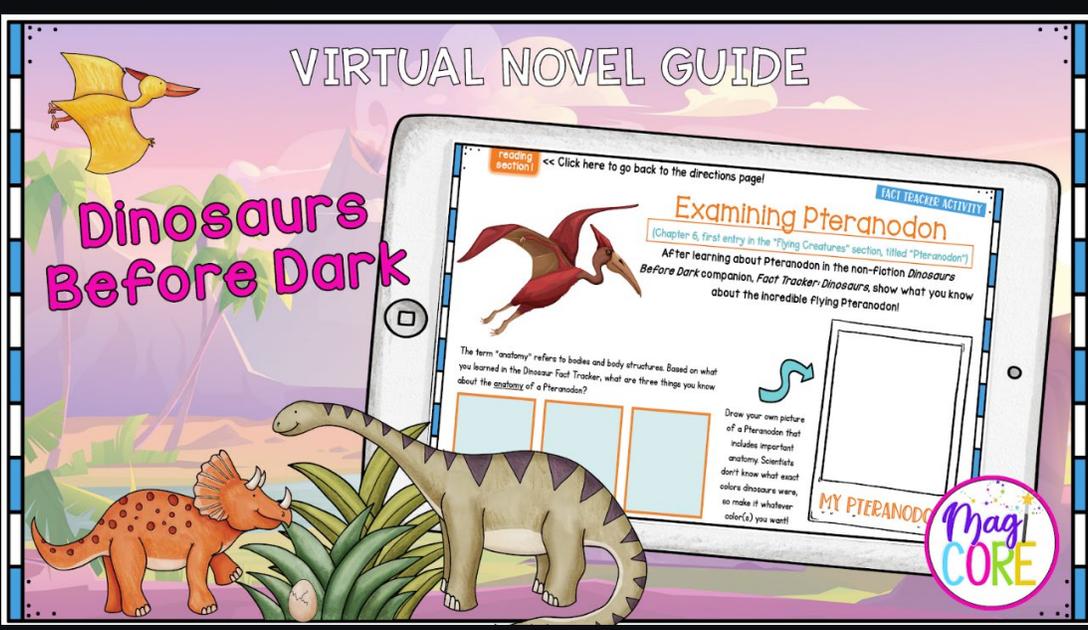
Draw your own picture of a Pteranodon that includes important anatomy. Scientists don't know what exact colors dinosaurs were, so make it whatever color(s) you want!

**MY PTERANODON**

**Magi CORE**

reading section | << Click here to go back to the directions page!

FACT TRACKER ACTIVITY



finishing  
up

<< Click here to go back to the directions page!

## Annie and Jack

At the beginning of the novel, we get a sense of Jack and Annie's relationship. Then, at the end of the book, we get a different sense of their relationship.

Reread the first page of Chapter I, then reread the last couple of pages of Chapter 10. On the journal pages to the right, describe your observations about Annie and Jack's relationship.

Use at least one quote for each section. What do you think caused a change in their relationship?

Beginning



End



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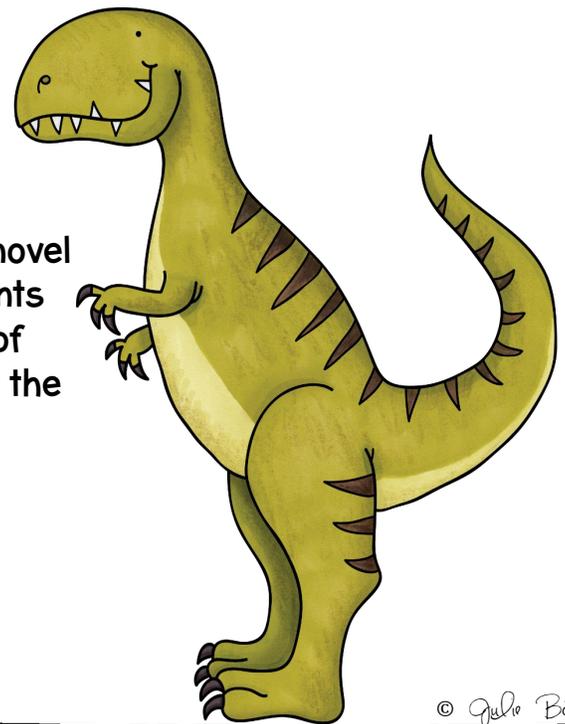
# Teacher Instructions

This **NOVEL GUIDE** is designed to elevate your novel study in an engaging way for students. Students will work in their Novel Guide Notebook while reading the assigned novel. This novel guide can be used in multiple ways: independent work, partner work, small group work, or even summer reading.

This novel guide was created for the novel *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, the first book in the Magic Tree House series, and is divided into SIX sections:

1. **GETTING STARTED**: pre-reading activities
2. **READING SECTION 1**: during reading activities- chapters 1 & 2
3. **READING SECTION 2**: during reading activities- chapters 3 & 4
4. **READING SECTION 3**: during reading activities- chapters 5 & 6
5. **READING SECTION 4**: during reading activities- chapters 7 & 8
6. **FINISHING UP**: after-reading activities- chapters 9 & 10

To organize this novel guide, we have divided the novel into four main reading sections. We suggest students read all chapters before completing that section of activities. The chapters are outlined above and at the start of each section.



getting started

reading section 1

reading section 2

reading section 3

reading section 4

finishing up

# Dinosaurs Before Dark

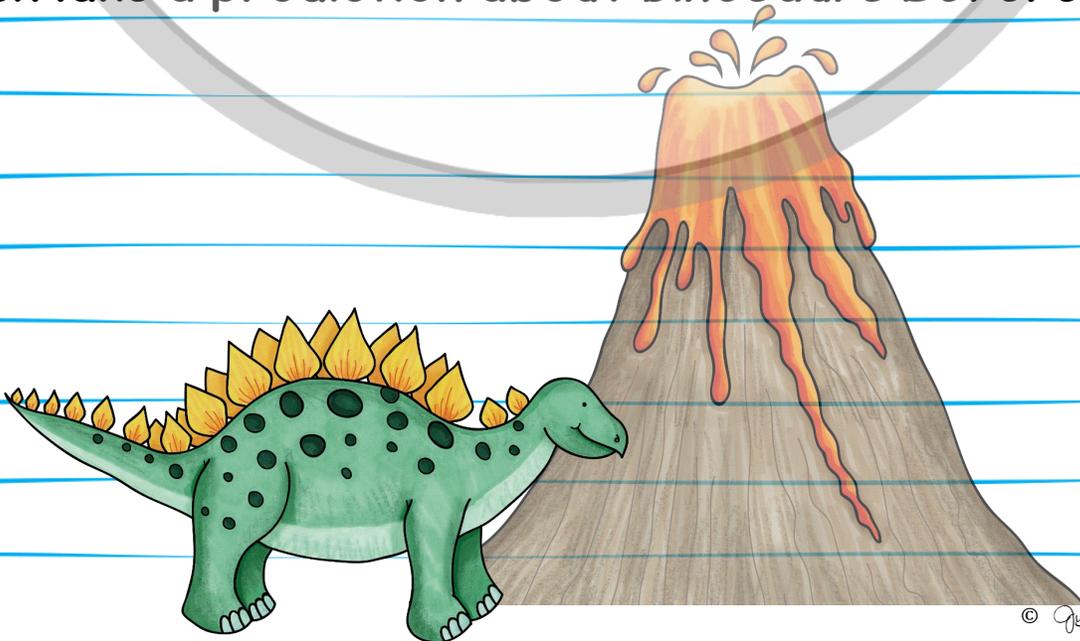


# Getting Started!

Before jumping into *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, you are going to learn some important background information about the characters and setting. You will also have a chance to make some predictions!

Check out the specific directions below to get started!

1. Think about dinosaurs.
2. Consider the difference between fiction and nonfiction.
3. Make a prediction about *Dinosaurs Before Dark*.



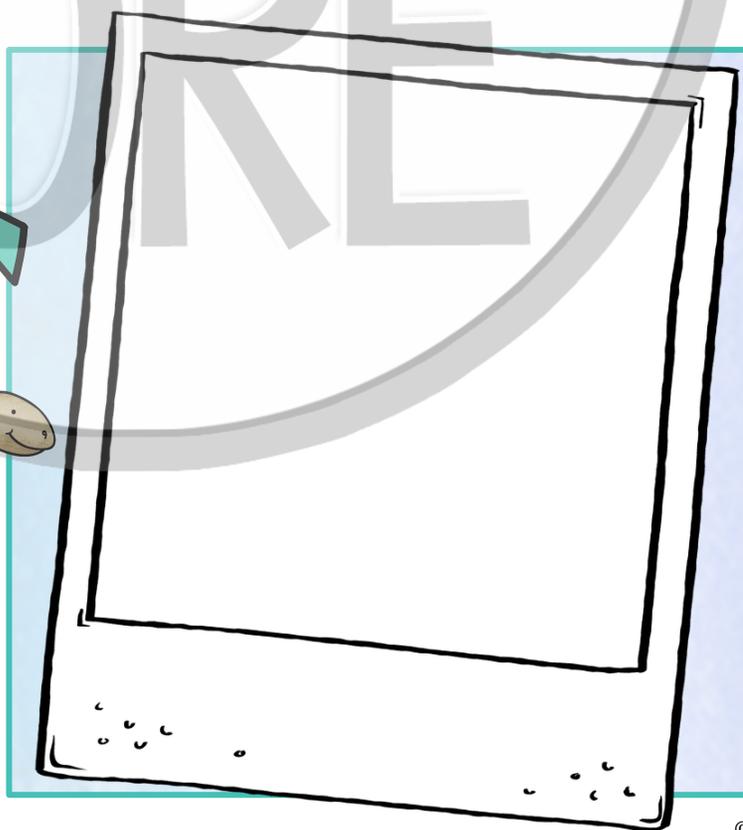
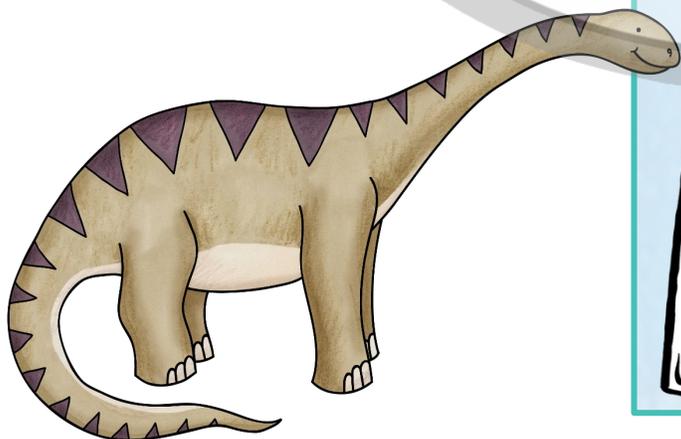
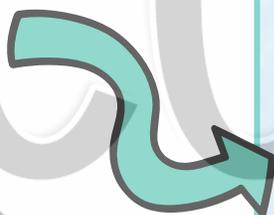
# What Is a Dinosaur?

Do you know anything about dinosaurs?

What do you wonder about dinosaurs?

Name a dinosaur you know.

Draw a picture  
of that  
dinosaur!



# Fiction Vs. Nonfiction

What do "fiction" and "nonfiction" mean?

Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction? Why?

The words below are synonyms for either "fiction" or "nonfiction." Write them in the correct boxes!

true	imagined	false
real	pretend	fact

*fiction*

*nonfiction*

# Making Predictions

Observe the cover of your copy of *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. In the space below, record your observations. Then, based on what you see on the cover, make a prediction of what the novel is about.



OBSERVATIONS:

Area for recording observations, featuring a large, faint watermark that reads "Magi CORE" with a starburst graphic above the word "Magi".

PREDICTION:

Area for recording a prediction, featuring a large, faint watermark that reads "Magi CORE" with a starburst graphic above the word "Magi".

# Reading Section 1

It's time to start reading *Dinosaurs Before Dark!* Be sure to read the chapters of section one listed below before starting the activities below.

Chapter 1:  
Into the Woods

Chapter 2:  
The Monster

After reading the chapters of section one, complete each activity below.

1. Review section one vocabulary.
2. Get to know Annie and Jack.
3. Describe the tree house.
4. Consider what you would do.
5. Fact Tracker! Examine Pteranodon.
6. Show what you know!



Check out the important vocab words in the first section of *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. Using a dictionary, fill in the table below.

Scan the code to access an online dictionary if needed.



word:

definition:

DISAPPEARED

ANCIENT

SOARING

TREMbled



# “Pretend” Versus “Real”

Annie and Jack, the main characters, are introduced in the first few paragraphs of the novel. Reread the first page of Chapter I, then answer the questions below.

1. What information do we find out about Annie and Jack right away?

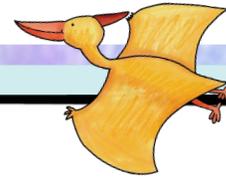
<u>Annie</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>Jack</u>

2. What do “pretend” and “real” mean to you? Are they opposites? Can some things be both real and pretend? Describe your opinion.

“Annie loved pretend stuff. But Jack was eight and a half. He liked *real* things.”



# What Would You Do?



1. What would you do if you found a tree house like Annie and Jack? Would you have responded more like Annie, or more like Jack? Why?

A large rectangular writing area with a blue border and horizontal blue lines. In the background, there is a large, faint watermark that says "Magi CORE" in a stylized font. The word "Magi" is in a cursive script, and "CORE" is in a bold, blocky font. Above the word "Magi" is a starburst graphic with several small stars.

2. Why do you think they suddenly see a Pteranodon? Where do you think they are?

A large rectangular writing area with a blue border and horizontal blue lines. In the background, there is a large, faint watermark that says "Magi CORE" in a stylized font. The word "Magi" is in a cursive script, and "CORE" is in a bold, blocky font. Above the word "Magi" is a starburst graphic with several small stars.

# Reading Section 2

getting  
started

reading  
section 1

reading  
section 2

Be sure to read the chapters of section two listed below before starting the activities below.

**Chapter 3:  
Where is Here?**

**&**

**Chapter 4:  
Henry**

After reading the chapters of section two, complete each activity below.



1. Review the vocabulary.
2. Summarize section two.
3. Describe Annie.
4. Think about captions and notes.
5. Explore the Age of Dinosaurs.
6. Show what you know!

# Vocabulary Activity: Anagrams!

Let's do an activity with the words you just defined!

Unscramble the four vocabulary words on the lines below.

MXNEAIE



\_\_\_\_\_

YCIUATOSL



\_\_\_\_\_

NSIVEHAD



\_\_\_\_\_

ASECOTD



\_\_\_\_\_



# Summarizing Section Two

Reflect on the chapters in section two: "Where is Here?" and "Henry." What important things happened in those two chapters?

Choose a way to summarize the main events of section two below. You can write a short paragraph, write a poem, create a timeline, or something else. Then, in the oval, describe why you chose to summarize the section in the way that you did. Did you enjoy the process?

Magi  
CORE





(Chapter 1, entire chapter)

## FACT TRACKER ACTIVITY

After learning about The Age of Dinosaurs in the non-fiction *Dinosaurs Before Dark* companion, help fill in the diagram below that represents the Mesozoic Era! Draw a line from the dinosaurs to the correct period and then identify them!

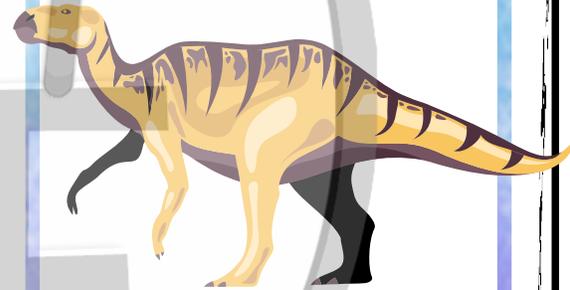
### THE TRIASSIC PERIOD

-  million years ago



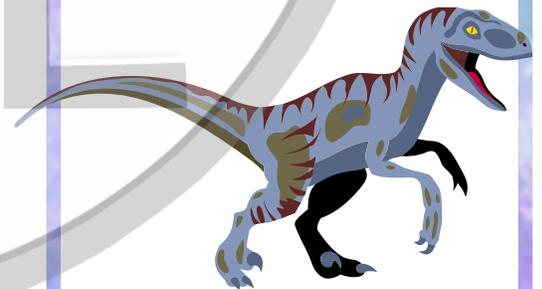
### THE JURASSIC PERIOD

-  million years ago

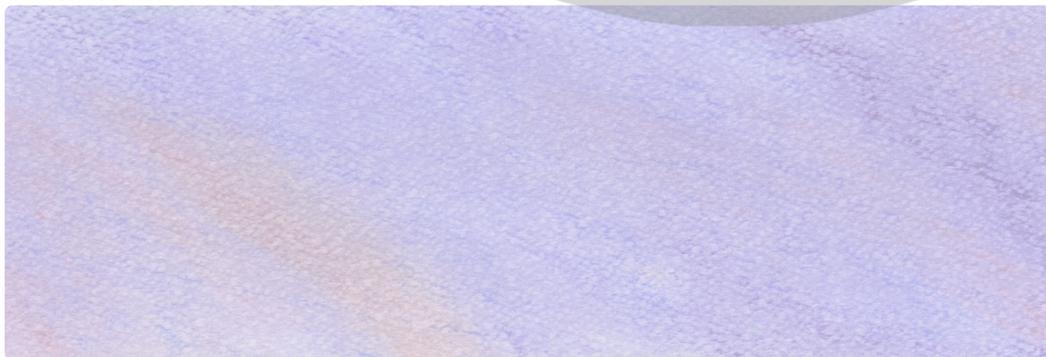
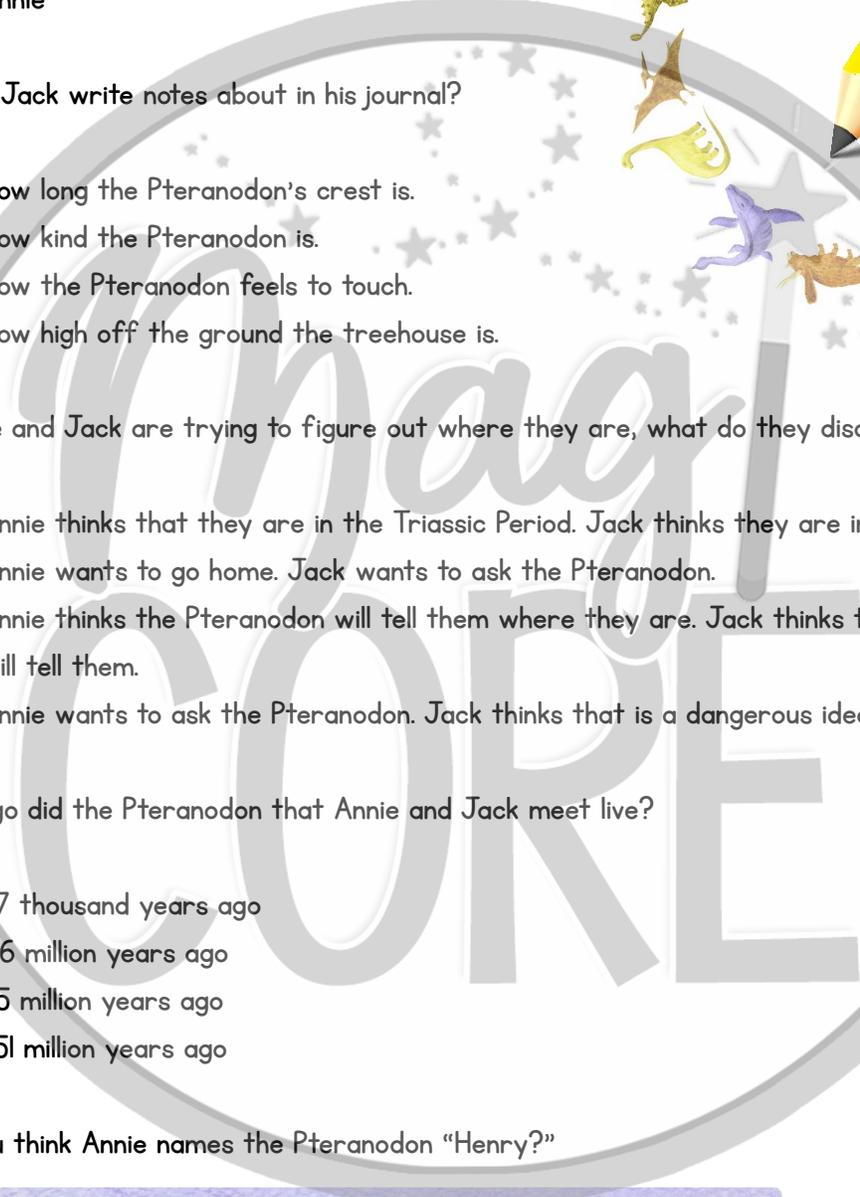


### THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD

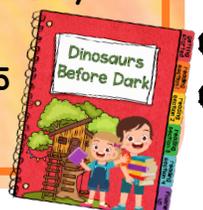
-  million years ago



1. Who is the more bold, trusting character in this section?
  - a. Jack
  - b. the Pteranodon
  - c. Henry
  - d. Annie
  
2. What does Jack write notes about in his journal?
  - a. How long the Pteranodon's crest is.
  - b. How kind the Pteranodon is.
  - c. How the Pteranodon feels to touch.
  - d. How high off the ground the treehouse is.
  
3. When Annie and Jack are trying to figure out where they are, what do they disagree on?
  - a. Annie thinks that they are in the Triassic Period. Jack thinks they are in the Jurassic Period.
  - b. Annie wants to go home. Jack wants to ask the Pteranodon.
  - c. Annie thinks the Pteranodon will tell them where they are. Jack thinks the Tyrannosaurus Rex will tell them.
  - d. Annie wants to ask the Pteranodon. Jack thinks that is a dangerous idea.
  
4. How long ago did the Pteranodon that Annie and Jack meet live?
  - a. 27 thousand years ago
  - b. 146 million years ago
  - c. 65 million years ago
  - d. 251 million years ago
  
5. Why do you think Annie names the Pteranodon "Henry?"



This is the end of section 2. Get ready for section 3 by reading Chapters 5 and 6.



# Reading Section 3

Be sure to read the chapters of section three listed below before starting the activities below.

Chapter 5:  
Gold in the Grass  
&  
Chapter 6:  
Dinosaur Valley

After reading the chapters of section three, complete each activity below.



1. Review the vocabulary.
2. Describe Jack.
3. Compare Annie and Jack.
4. Explore plant-eating dinosaurs.
5. Examine an Anatosaurus.
6. Show what you know!

# Vocabulary Activity: Word Search!

Let's do an activity with the words you just defined!

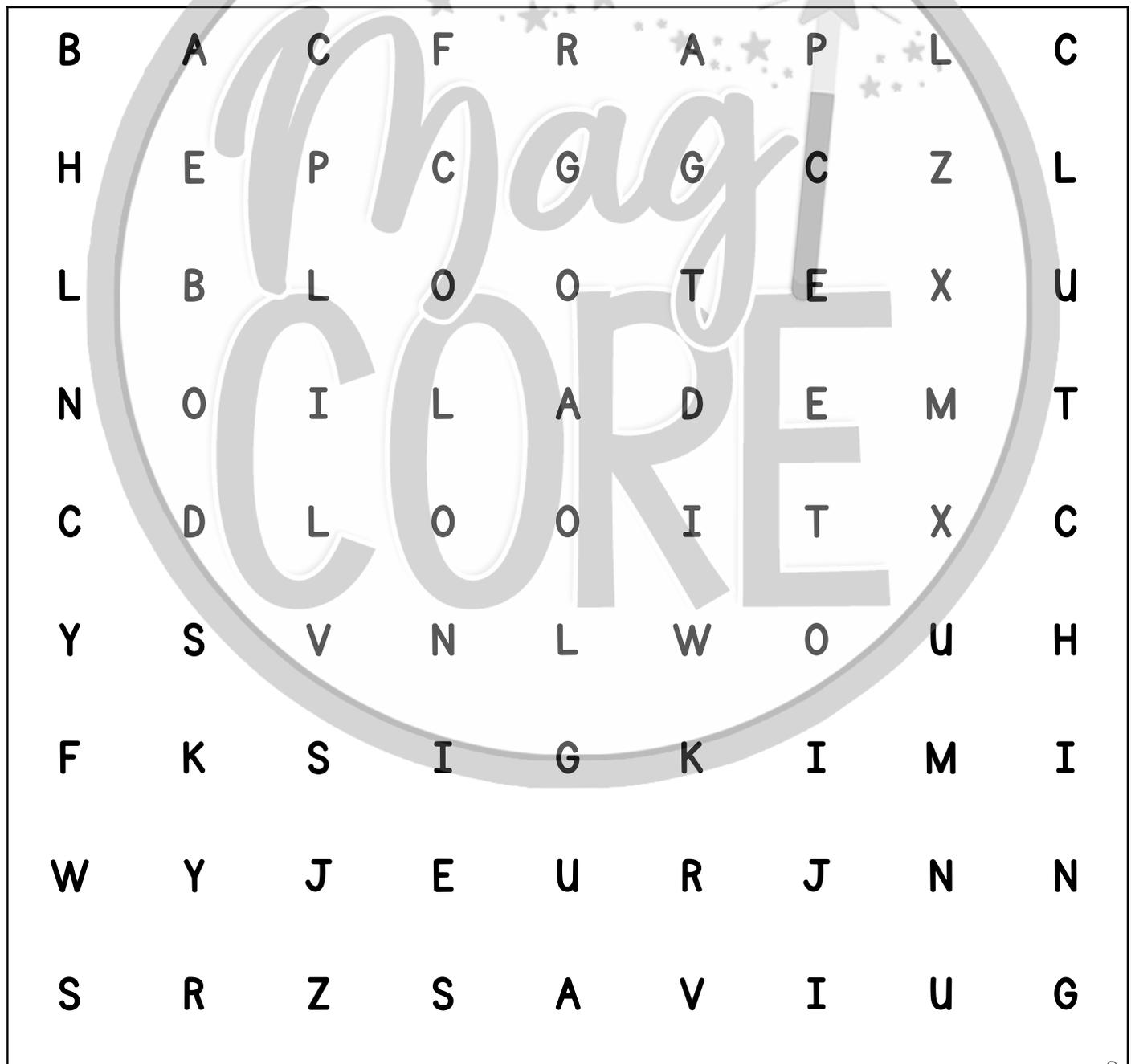
Locate the four vocabulary words in the word search. "Draw" ovals around each word.

BELLOWING

CLUTCHING

MEDALLION

COLONIES



Think about what you know about Jack so far. Who is he? What is his personality like? What does he enjoy?

In the three green circles, write one-word descriptions of Jack. An example is "brother," because we know that he is Annie's brother.

In each of the two orange circles, copy a quote from any of the sections you've read (so far) that describes Jack in some way.

In the two yellow circles, describe your perspective on Jack. Some questions to consider include: What do you admire about Jack? Do you think you two would be friends? Why?



Jack

# Reading Section 4

Be sure to read the chapters of section four listed below before starting the activities below.

Chapter 7:  
Ready, Set, Go!  
&

Chapter 8:  
A Giant Shadow

After reading the chapters of section four, complete each activity below.

1. Review the vocabulary.
2. What would you do?
3. Analyze chapter titles.
4. Explore flesh-eating dinosaurs.
5. Examine a T. rex.
6. Show what you know!



getting  
started

reading  
section 1

reading  
section 2

reading  
section 3

reading  
section 4

# Analyzing Chapter Titles

Chapter 7 is titled "Ready, Set, Go!" and Chapter 8 is titled "A Giant Shadow."  
Reflect on the events that occur in each chapter and fill out the charts below.

"READY, SET, GO!"

Do you think this is a good title for Chapter 7? Why?

Copy a quote from Chapter 7 that best represents the title.

If you could rename this chapter title, what would it be?

"A GIANT SHADOW"

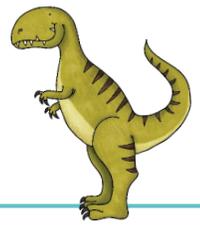
Do you think this is a good title for Chapter 8? Why?

Copy a quote from Chapter 8 that best represents the title.

If you could rename this chapter title, what would it be?



# Flesh-Eating Dinosaurs



## FACT TRACKER ACTIVITY

(Chapter 4, main chapter text, read until "Our Favorite Flesh-eaters")

After learning about flesh-eating dinosaurs in the non-fiction *Dinosaurs Before Dark* companion, choose a flesh-eating dinosaur to research.

Scan the QR Code of one of the six flesh-eating dinosaurs, then describe it in the space below. Include its name, at least 3 features of its anatomy, at least 2 features of its behavior, and what Mesozoic Era period it lived in.

ALLOSAURUS



DILOPHOSAURUS



SPINOSAURUS



TROODON



TYLOSAURUS



VELOCIRAPTOR



# Finishing Up

Be sure to read the chapters of the last section listed below before starting the activities below.

Chapter 9:  
The Amazing Ride  
&  
Chapter 10:  
Home Before Dark

After reading the chapters, complete each activity below.

1. Review the vocabulary.
2. Reflect on Annie and Jack.
3. Write a short story.
4. Design a Dino.
5. Show what you know!



# Vocabulary Activity: Alphabetize!

Let's do an activity with the words you just defined!

Put the four vocabulary words in alphabetical order by  
writing them on the numbered lines below.

ENGRAVING

DAZED

TEETERED

GRAZING

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

finishing  
up



# Your Magic Tree House

First, imagine that you discovered a magic tree house. Then, think of a place or time that you would really like to visit.

Write a short story about your adventure. Include important information such as setting, characters, and events.

A large writing area with a purple border and light blue horizontal lines. A vertical red margin line is on the left. In the center, there is a large, faint watermark that says "Magi CORE" in a stylized font. Above the watermark, there is a faint illustration of a magic wand with a star at the tip, surrounded by smaller stars.



# Design A Dino

Design your very own dinosaur! Draw a picture of your dinosaur in the frame below. Then, describe your dinosaur and its features.

Name:

Period:

Anatomy features:

Behavior features:



1. Who is calling Annie and Jack when they arrive back in Frog Creek woods?

- a. Henry
- b. The Tyrannosaurus
- c. The owner of the gold medallion.
- d. Their mother



2. What do Annie and Jack decide as they head home?

- a. They decide to find the owner of the gold medallion.
- b. They decide to take their best friends to the magic tree house with them.
- c. They decide to tell their teachers about their amazing adventure.
- d. They decide not to tell anyone about what happened to them.

3. When do Annie and Jack decide to return to the tree house?

- a. After dinner
- b. This weekend
- c. Tomorrow
- d. Never

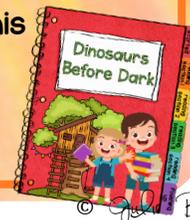
4. Why does Jack hesitate before getting on the Pteranodon's back?

- a. He thinks he's too heavy.
- b. He worries that the Pteranodon will eat him.
- c. He doesn't want to mess up its fuzzy skin.
- d. He thinks it's going to drop him right in front of the dinosaur.

5. How does Jack feel as he is riding on the back of the Pteranodon? How would you feel? Similarly, or different?

A large, empty rectangular box with a light purple and blue gradient background, intended for the student to write their answer to question 5.

This is the end of the  
*Dinosaurs Before Dark*  
Novel Guide. Hope you  
enjoyed this  
amazing  
book!



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Good to Go



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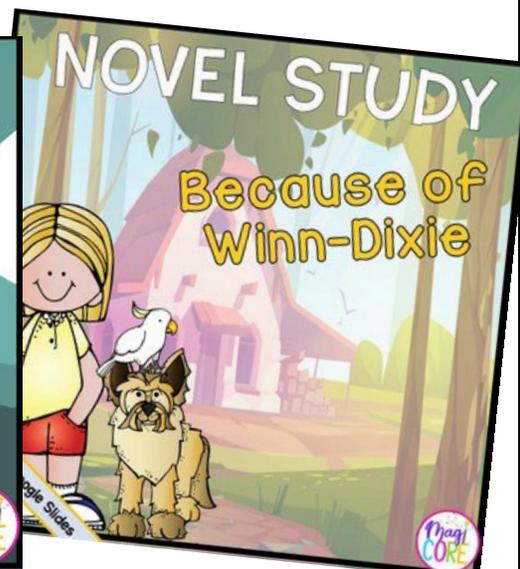
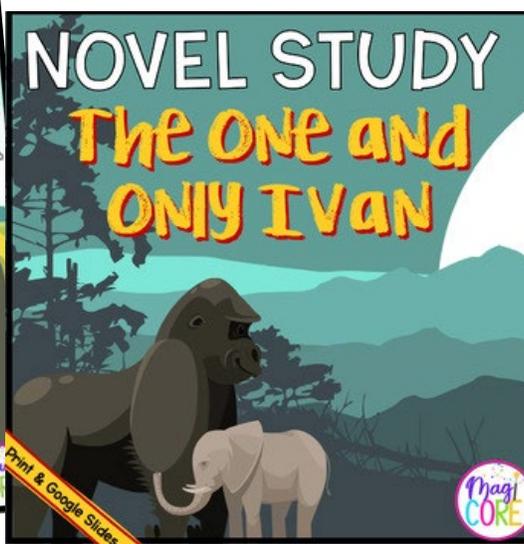
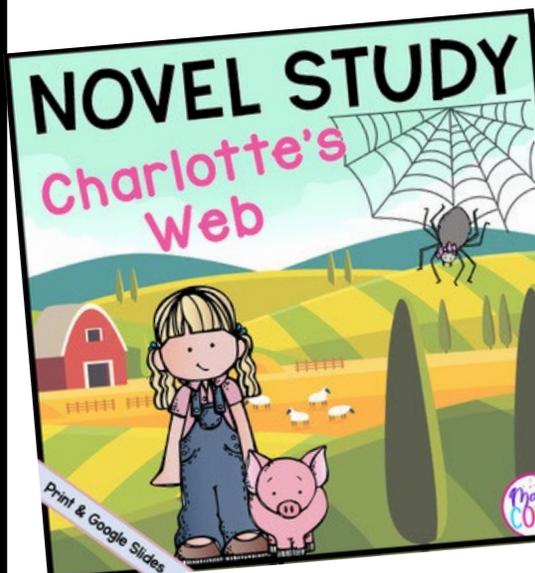


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