

Predictions and Questions

Activity Summary

Students will discuss the differences between fact and opinion and practice using their observation and communication skills to predict what they will see and do on their visit. This activity was inspired by LEAP into Science: a science and literacy program, developed by The Franklin Institute in collaboration with the Free Library of Philadelphia and funded by the National Science Foundation.

- Class time: 30 minutes
- Grade level: K-2.

Learning Objectives

- Scientists gather information and determine whether it is fact or opinion.
- A fact is based on information that you know or can prove. An opinion is based on what you think about the information that you have.
- Opinions can lead us to ask more questions and find more facts.
- Scientists ask questions about what is going on now and what will happen next.

Materials Needed

- Large image of the *Investigating Dinosaurs* logo
- White board or large paper such as a flipchart
- Paper, pencils, pens, markers, and crayons
- Images, figures, or toys of dinosaurs and other animals

Activity

1. Announce the upcoming visit to WOW! Children's Museum. Show the *Investigating Dinosaurs* logo and invite them to share the images and words that they see. Ask what they think that they will see and do, based on what they see in the logo. Write all of their responses on the board.

2. Discuss the differences between fact and opinion. Facts are statements that are based on information, while opinions are statements that are usually based on what you think of that information. An example of a fact is: the logo has the word *dinosaurs*. An example of an opinion is that the museum has dinosaurs in it. That opinion is based on a fact, but it cannot be proven from looking at the logo.
3. Review the list and ask them to identify which are facts and which are opinions. Ask them *How do you know?* to test each of their statements. We know that the word *dinosaurs* is in the image. The image does not show what is inside the museum.
4. Discuss the colors used in the logo. Compare them to the images, figures, and toys that you have. What color do you think this dinosaur should be? Why do you think that? Why do you suppose WOW! Children's Museum used these colors? Some colors or patterns might help an animal to hide from predators or prey. Other colors or patterns are just fun to use!
5. Reflect on what they have discussed so far and what is left to figure out:
 - What other information do you need to figure out these opinions?
 - What questions do you still have?
 - What will you look for when you arrive at the museum?
 - Name some things that you can do to be good scientists on your trip.



Investigating

Dinosaurs