

AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

ROARING INTO THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD!

STUDENT
ACTIVITIES

Lower Primary
Years 1-3



 Australia Post

Truett

AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF AUSSIE DINOSAURS

Every year, Australia Post celebrates Stamp Collecting Month in Australia.

2022'S THEME IS ON AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS.

The theme was chosen after the 2021 naming of a dinosaur discovered in Queensland, *Australotitan cooperensis* (affectionately known as Cooper before this). Found deep within the landscape of Australia, there are lots of interesting facts and stories to learn about them.

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR YOU

Use the prehistoric fact cards in this activity book to find out lots of interesting facts about four of the many dinosaurs, and one of the few known pterosaurs, from Australia.

There are also some fun activities you can do in class with your teacher and friends.



AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

MEET THE DINOSAUR *DIAMANTINASAURUS MATILDAE* DI-AH-MAN-TEEN-AH-SORE-US MAH-TILL-DAY



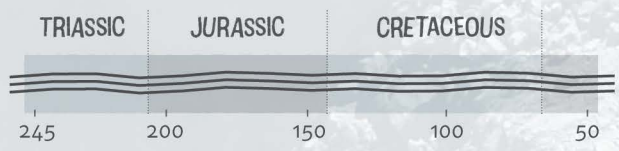
DISCOVERED IN 2004 NEAR
WINTON, QLD

LONG NECKED - 16-20 METRES IN LENGTH - 6-7 METERS TALL - WEIGHING UP TO 23,000 KG!

INTERESTING FACTS

Nicknamed 'Matilda' after the song 'Waltzing Matilda' written by Banjo Paterson.

LIVED DURING THE MID-CRETACEOUS PERIOD OR 100 MILLION YEARS AGO



FOUR-LEGGED
MUSCULAR LEGS - LONG
TAIL - SCALY SKIN

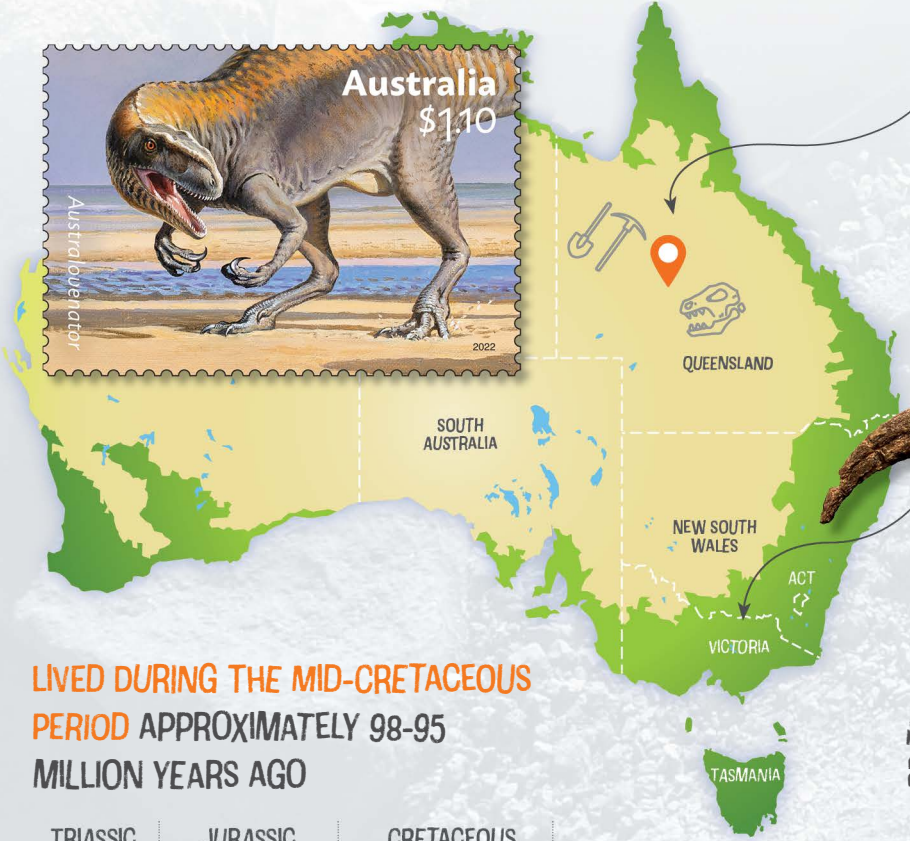


AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

MEET THE DINOSAUR *AUSTRALOVENATOR WINTONENSIS* OSS-TRAH-LOW-VEN-AH-TORE WIN-TON-ENN-SISS

DIET
CARNIVORE
(MEAT)



DISCOVERED IN 2005 NEAR
WINTON, QLD

CLAWS HAVE ALSO BEEN
FOUND IN **VICTORIA**

The bones of *Australovenator* were found alongside those of the sauropod 'Matilda', properly known as *Diamantinasaurus matildae*.



SHARP TEETH - THREE CURVED CLAWS ON EACH HAND 5-6 METRES LONG - 1.5-1.7 METRES TALL - 295-315 KG

LIVED DURING THE MID-CRETACEOUS PERIOD APPROXIMATELY 98-95 MILLION YEARS AGO



TWO-LEGGED - ROBUST AND MUSCULAR ARMS

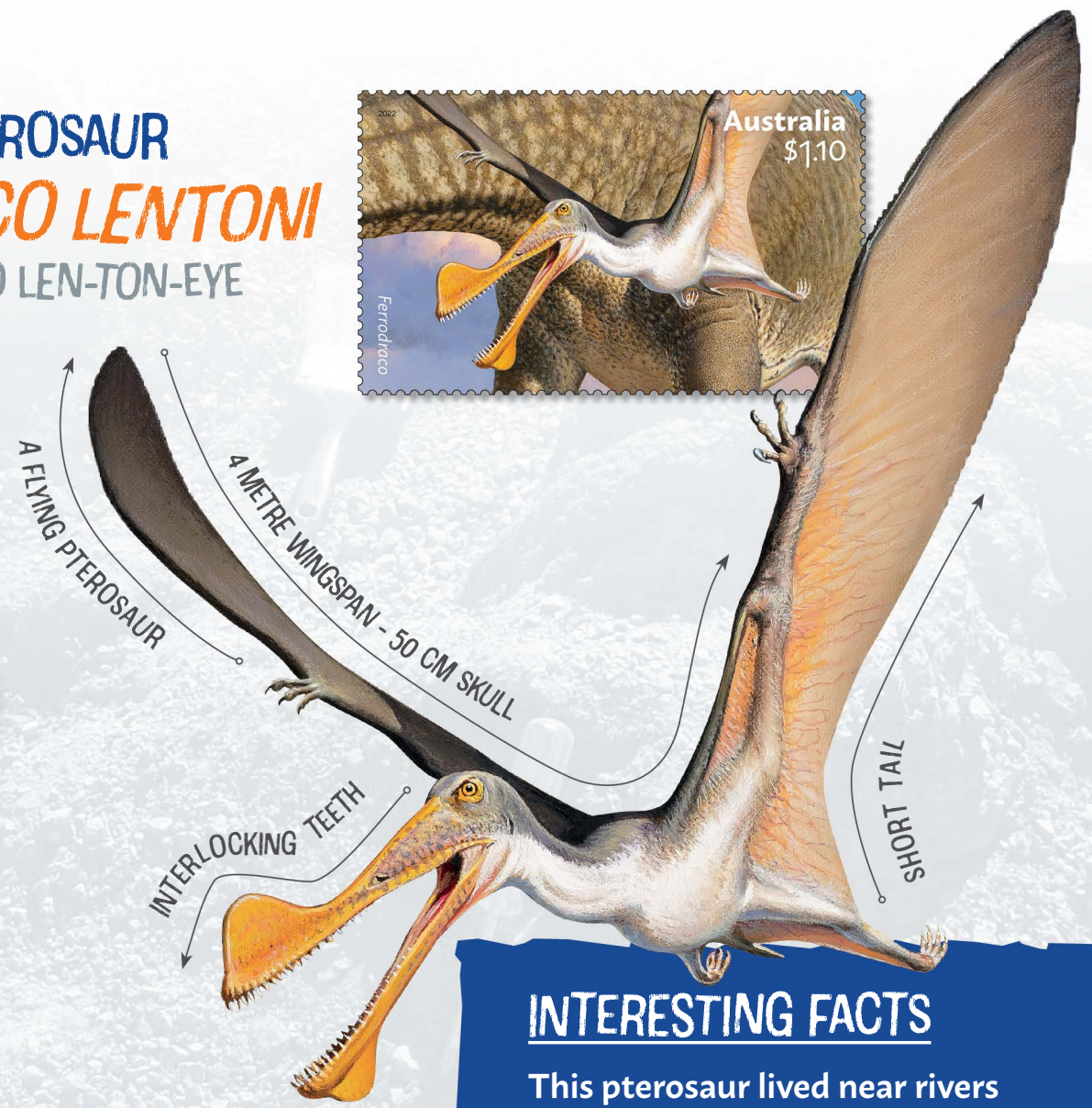
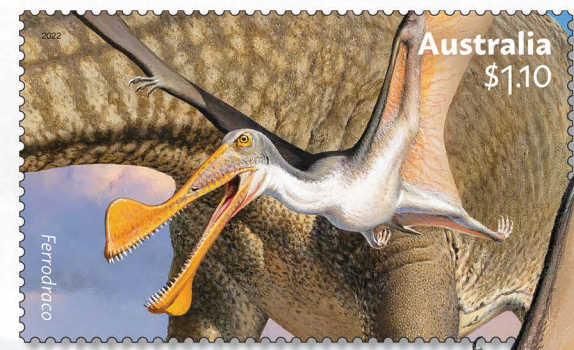
INTERESTING FACTS
The original specimen of *Australovenator* is nicknamed 'Banjo' after the Australian poet, Banjo Paterson.



AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

MEET THE PTEROSAUR *FERRODRACO LENTONI* FAIR-ROW-DRAY-CO LEN-TON-EYE



LIVED DURING THE LATE-CRETACEOUS PERIOD OR 96 MILLION YEARS AGO



DISCOVERED IN 2017 NEAR
WINTON, QLD

INTERESTING FACTS
This pterosaur lived near rivers and lakes. Strong interlocking teeth helped it to trap fish.



AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

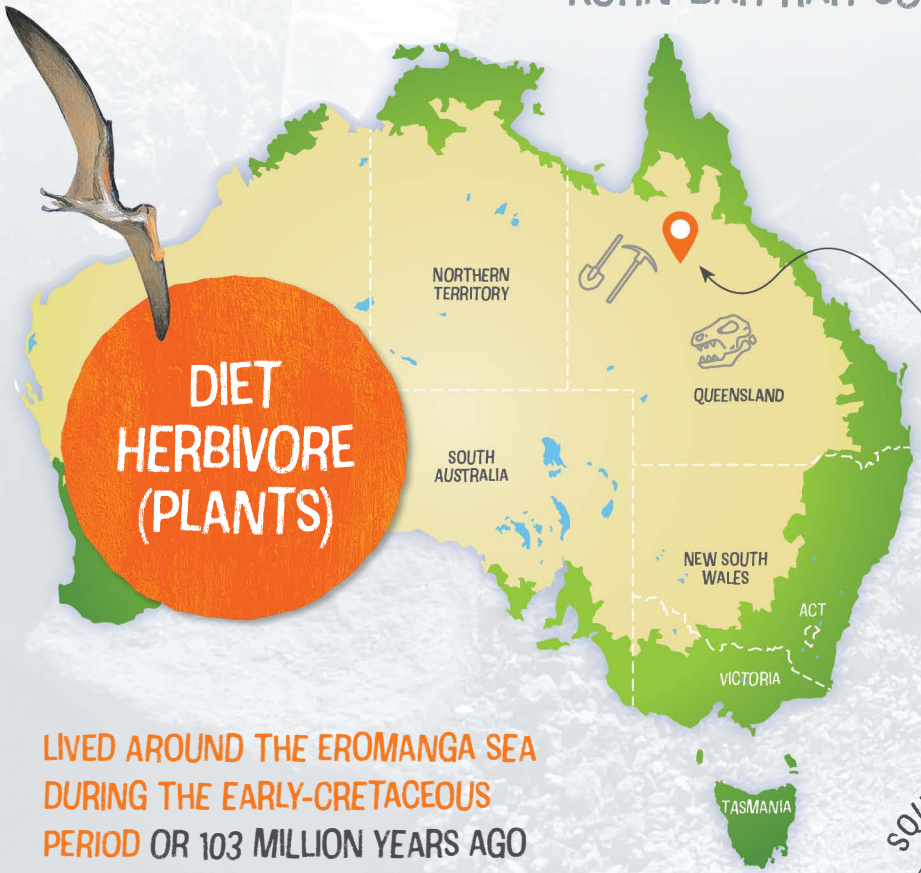
Australia Post Collecting Month

MEET THE DINOSAUR *KUNBARRASAURUS IEVERSI* KUH-N-BAH-RAH-SORE-USS EYE-VERS-EYE



INTERESTING FACTS

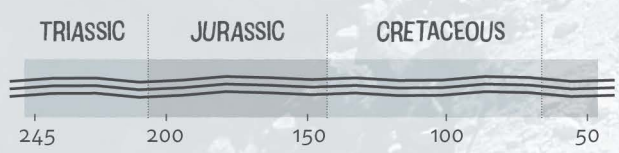
This dinosaur's last meal of ferns and flowering plants was found in its stomach - this type of fossil is called a cololite.



DISCOVERED IN 1989 NEAR
RICHMOND, QLD

THE SIZE OF A SHEEP

LIVED AROUND THE EROMANGA SEA DURING THE EARLY-CRETACEOUS PERIOD OR 103 MILLION YEARS AGO



SQUAT - ARMoured BACK - PARROT-LIKE BEAK - 2.5-3 METRES LONG - 150-200 KG - 60-70 CM TALL

LEAF-SHAPED TEETH



AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

MEET THE DINOSAUR ELAPHROSAURINE THEROPOD

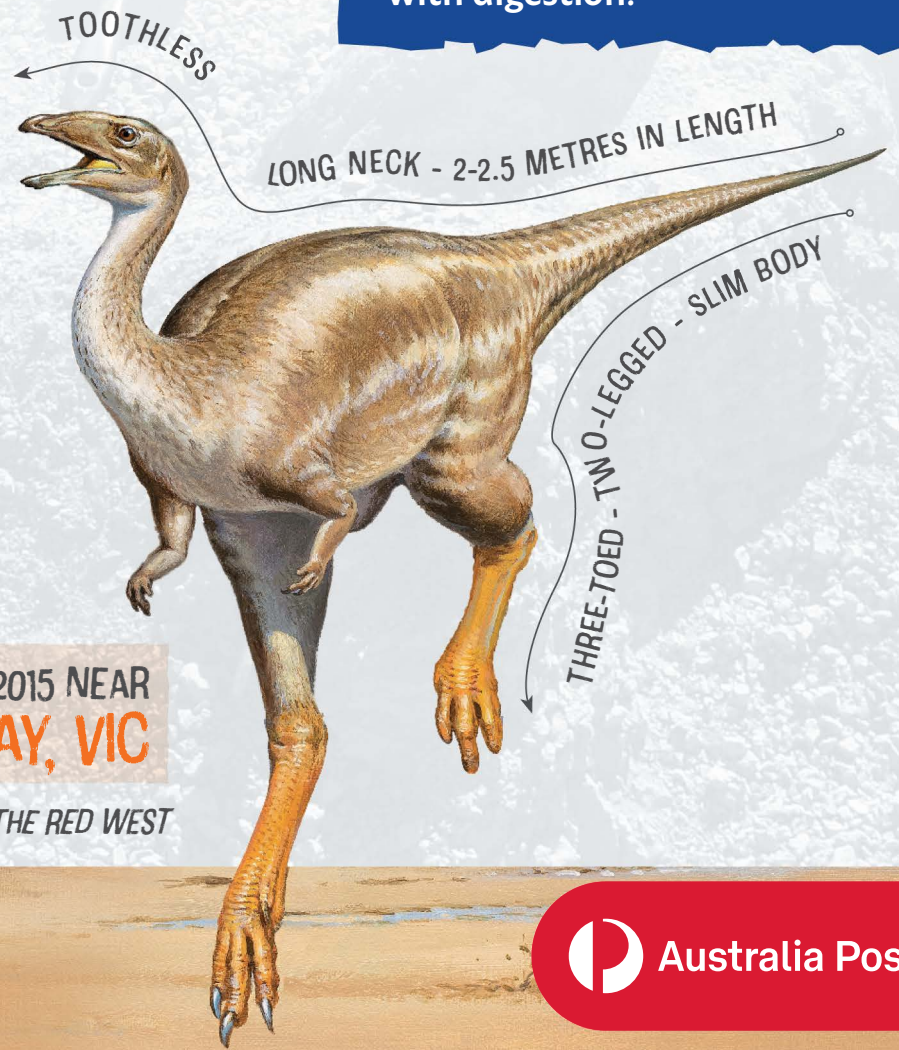
EL-AH-FRO-SAWR-EENE THEH-RUH-POD

INTERESTING FACTS

As the elaphrosaurine theropods aged they shed their teeth and grew a horny beak. They also swallowed stones to help with digestion.



DIET
HERBIVORE
(PLANTS)



LIVED DURING THE EARLY-CRETACEOUS PERIOD OR 110 MILLION YEARS AGO



DISCOVERED IN 2015 NEAR
CAPE OTWAY, VIC

THIS FOSSIL SITE IS KNOWN AS ERIC THE RED WEST

ACTIVITY 1 EVOLVING DINOS

STEP 1 - LEARN

Read the *Kunbarrasaurus* fact card.

FUN FACT

The *Kunbarrasaurus*' body was shaped like a barrel and their beaks were covered in keratin (the same as your fingernails).

STEP 2 - THINK

KUNBARRASAURUS

What other animals look similar?

Why did they need bony armour on their heads?

They ate plants, so why did it need a parrot-like beak?

STEP 3 - CREATE

Use recycled materials to construct your own *Kunbarrasaurus*.

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Design and build your own diorama of a *Kunbarrasaurus*' habitat.

Think about the types of food, shelter and land features.

When you have finished, put your constructed *Kunbarrasaurus* inside.



ACTIVITY 2 PREHISTORIC POETS



STEP 1 - LEARN

A shape poem is a poem written in the physical shape of what the poem is about.



STEP 2 - THINK

Why would a poem be written in the shape of something?

How would you plan a shape poem?

Would you write the words or draw the shape first?

STEP 3 - WRITE

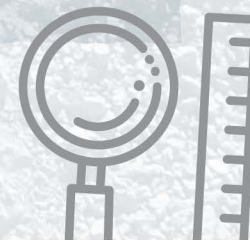
After learning about the 5 Australian prehistoric creatures, use the *Shape Poetry* worksheet to write your own shape poem about one of your choice.

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Take your shape poem and try rewriting it in a different form of poetry like an acrostic or a cinquain.

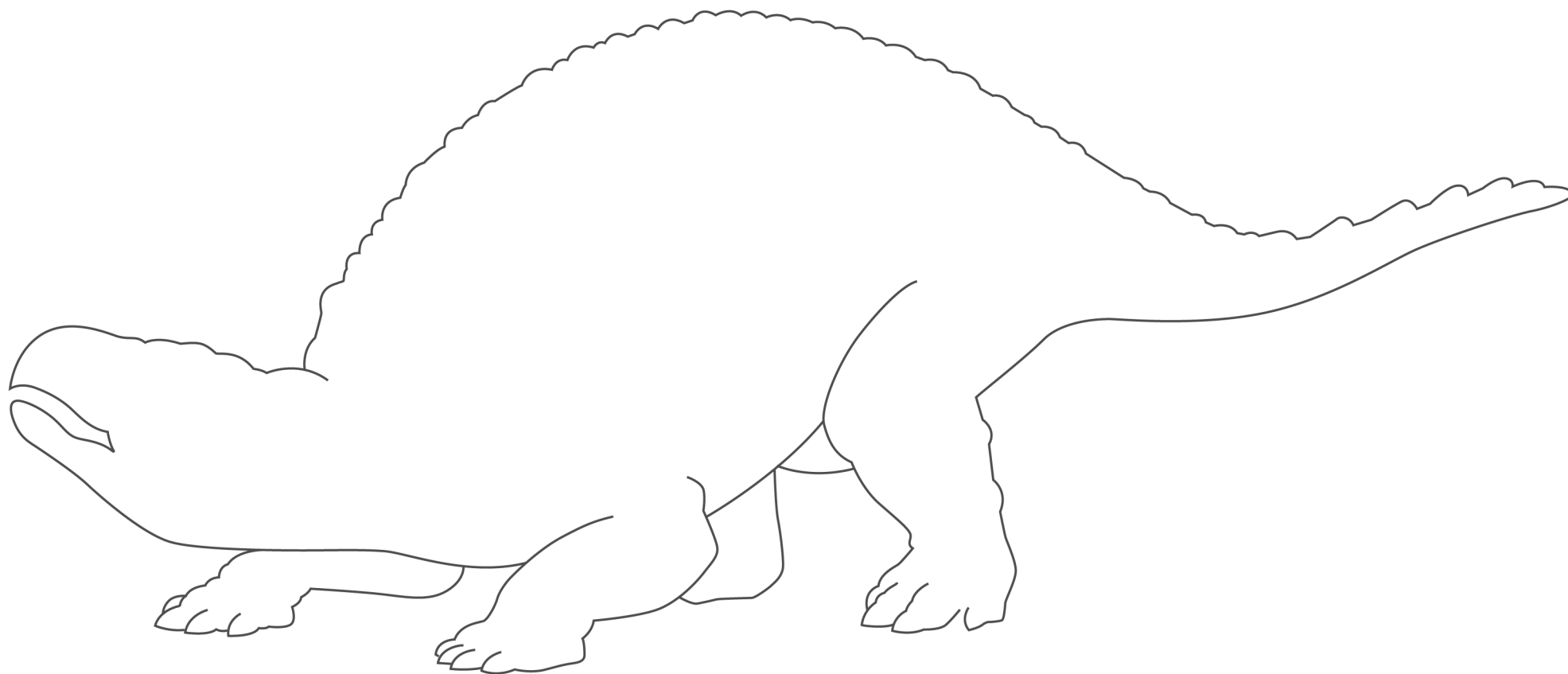
DID YOU KNOW...

Poets have been writing shape poems for centuries? Look up some examples.



ACTIVITY 2
SHAPE POETRY

Use the outline below to write your shape poem.
Write your poem around the outside of the dinosaur,
in the middle or however you wish!



ACTIVITY 3 WINGED WARRIORS

STEP 1 - LEARN

There are five senses that help us to understand our world.

SIGHT
TOUCH
SMELL
TASTE
HEARING

Which parts of **your** body do they belong to?

FUN FACTS

Ferrodraco was an ancient flying reptile which meant it could soar across the skies.

STEP 2 - THINK

Prehistoric creatures (like humans) needed different body parts to survive.

What main body part did *Ferrodraco* need to survive?

Would *Ferrodraco* have had different senses to humans?

STEP 3 - DO

Use the Ancient Bodies worksheet to label the body parts of the *Ferrodraco*.

What is each body part used for? **Hint:** Use the *Ferrodraco* Fact Card

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

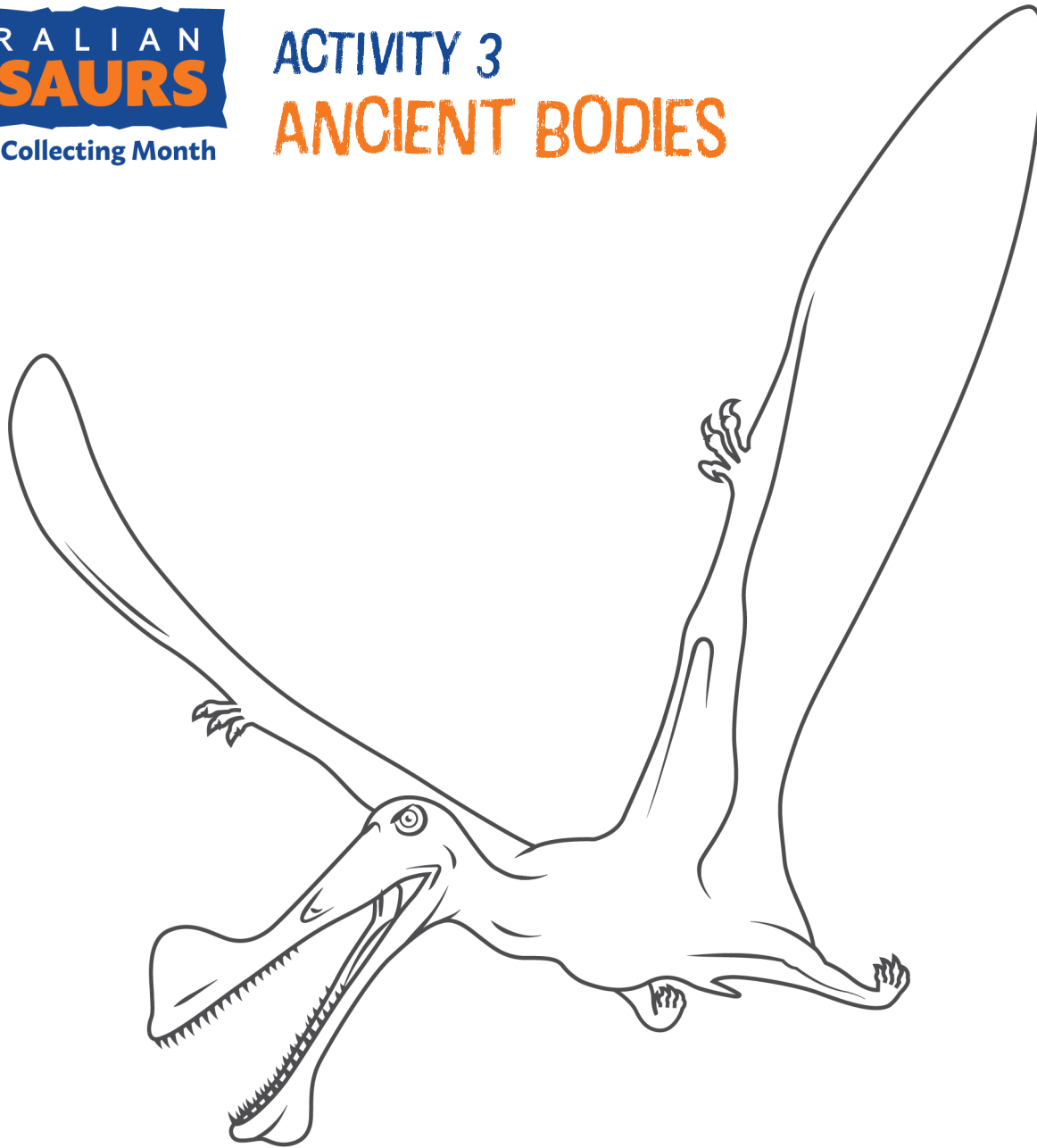
How do you think it would feel to have superpower senses?

Imagine having x-ray vision or super sonic hearing.

Write a story about a character with super senses that travels back to the era of the dinosaurs.



ACTIVITY 3
ANCIENT BODIES



Label the body parts of the *Ferrodraco*

BODY PARTS

- head crest
- short neck
- shoulder
- elbow
- interlocking teeth
- wrist
- back leg
- short tail
- three small inner fingers
- super long fourth finger to support wing

ACTIVITY 4 PREHISTORIC AUSTRALIA



STEP 1 - LEARN

200 million years ago Australia was connected to Antarctica, which was in turn connected to South America, Africa, Madagascar and India.

This was the supercontinent Gondwana.

STEP 2 - THINK

What is different between Gondwana and Australia today?

STEP 3 - CREATE

Use the *Timeline* to write or draw when each prehistoric creature lived.

Hint: Use the prehistoric fact cards.

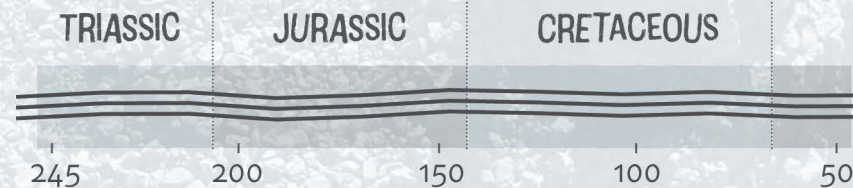
FUN FACTS

Many different animals and dinosaurs lived and died in Gondwana.

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

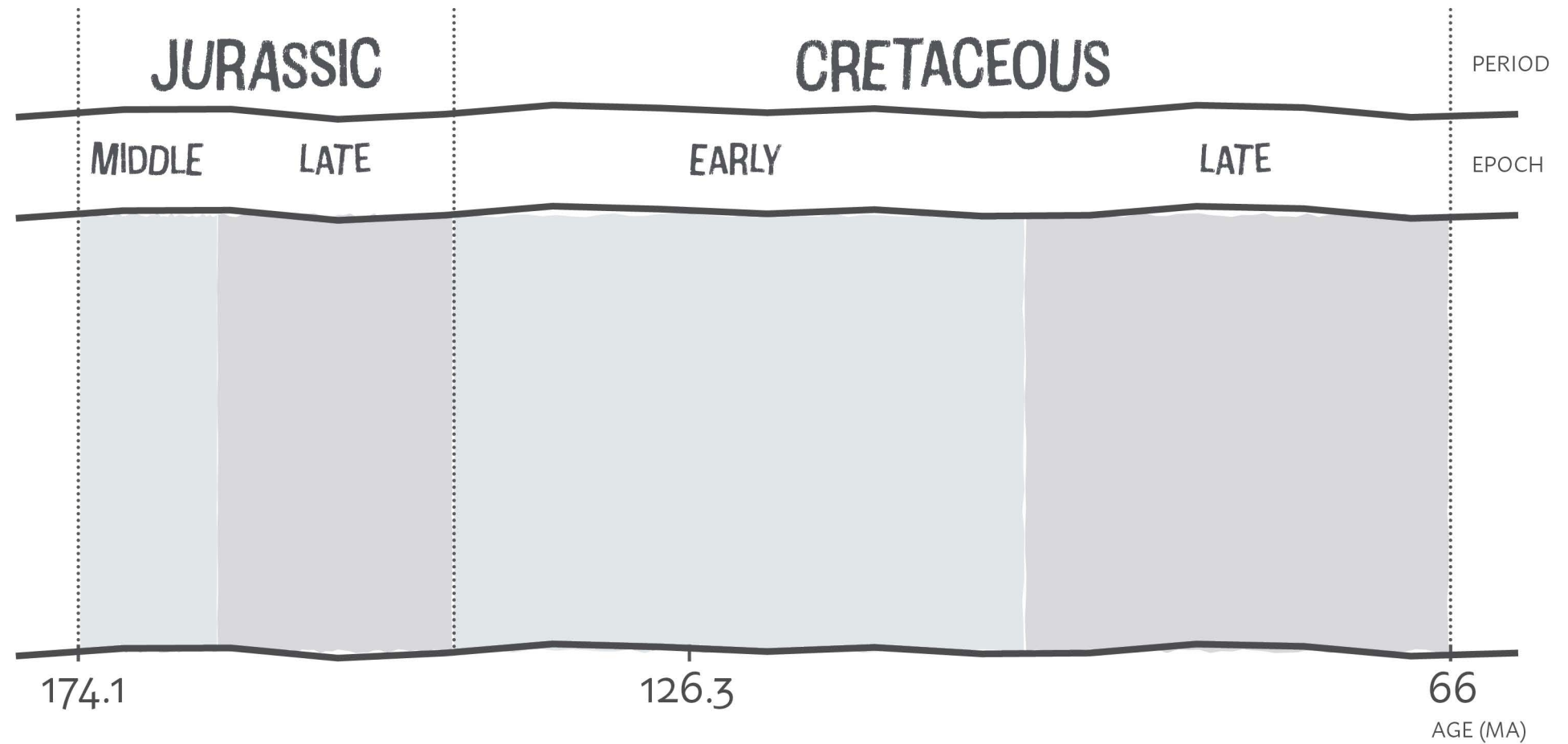
Imagine that dinosaurs still existed on our planet today, and we had to live with them.

How might our world be different?



ACTIVITY 4
TIMELINE

Use the timeline below to write or draw when each of the five Australian dinosaurs lived.
Hint: Use the prehistoric fact cards



ACTIVITY 5 DIGGING FOR DINOSAURS



STEP 1 - LEARN

A palaeontologist is someone who studies the history of life on Earth.

They do this by looking at fossils.

The rocks where the elaphrosaurine theropod was found are eroding (wearing away) because the waves hit them again and again.

STEP 2 - THINK

How might erosion help with new prehistoric discoveries?

Use your prehistoric fact cards to learn where the elaphrosaurine theropod was discovered?

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Take an old spoon and paintbrush and go on a nature walk.

Dig around with the spoon to see if you can find some interesting rocks or stones.

Use the old paintbrush to clean away the dust, look carefully.

Can you spot any markings that might make it a fossil. Ask an adult to check.

STEP 3 - CREATE

Imagine you are a palaeontologist and have just made a new prehistoric discovery.

Write a letter to a museum to tell them all about your find.

Hint: Don't forget to include a labelled diagram of your creature.

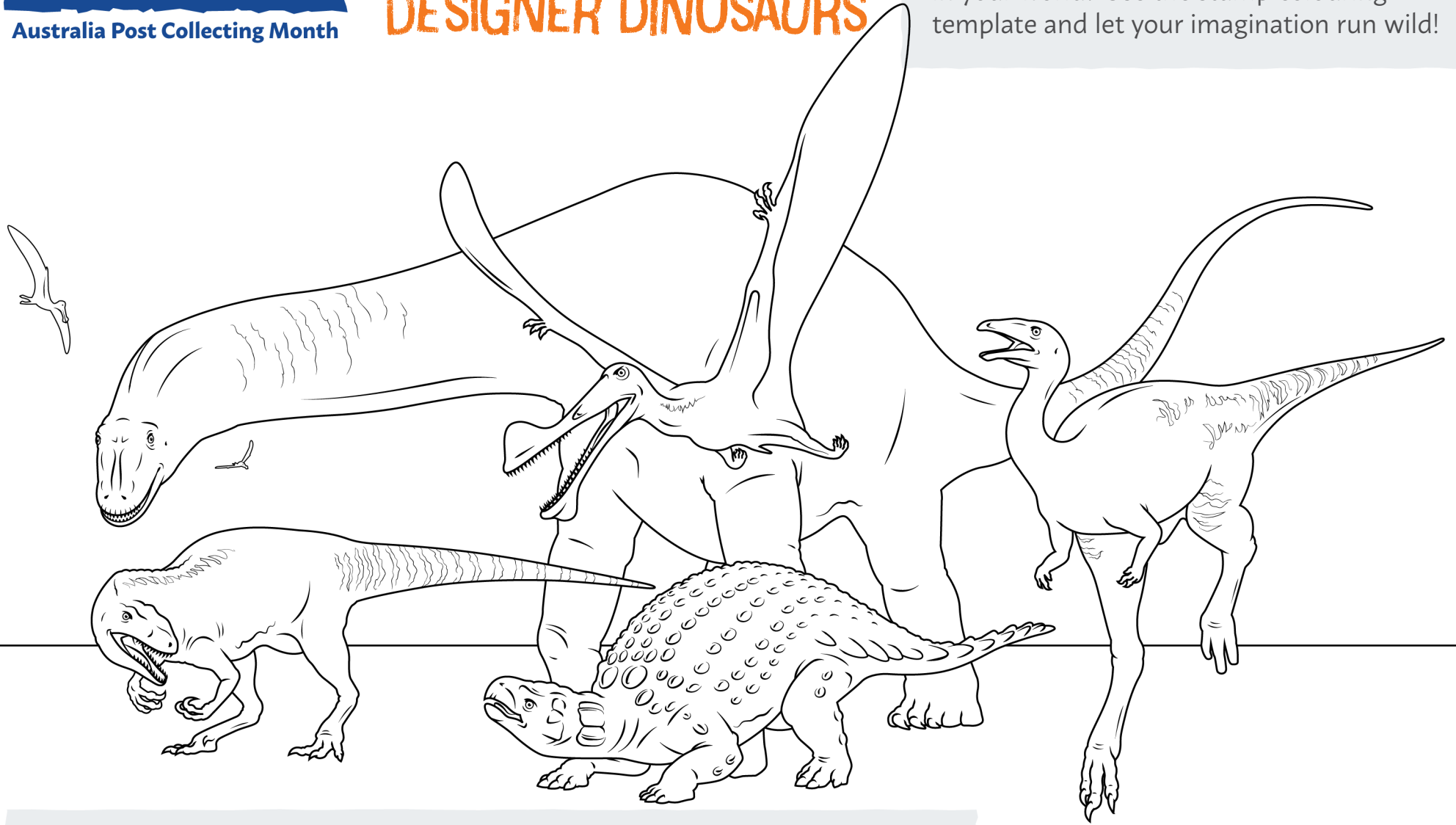
FUN FACTS

Many prehistoric fossils have been found in Australia, including the 5 on your fact cards!



STUDENT LED TASK
DESIGNER DINOSAURS

Imagine a world where prehistoric creatures could be any colour. How would they look in your world? Use the stamp colouring template and let your imagination run wild!



GO FURTHER! Write and explain the design choices you made. **For example:**
I chose the colour green to show that this dinosaur is a herbivore.



A U S T R A L I A N **DINOSAURS**

Australia Post Collecting Month

*Stamp illustration: Peter Trusler. Images: © Australian Age of Dinosaurs
(paleontological photographs); Noch/Shutterstock.com (icons)*

 **Australia Post**