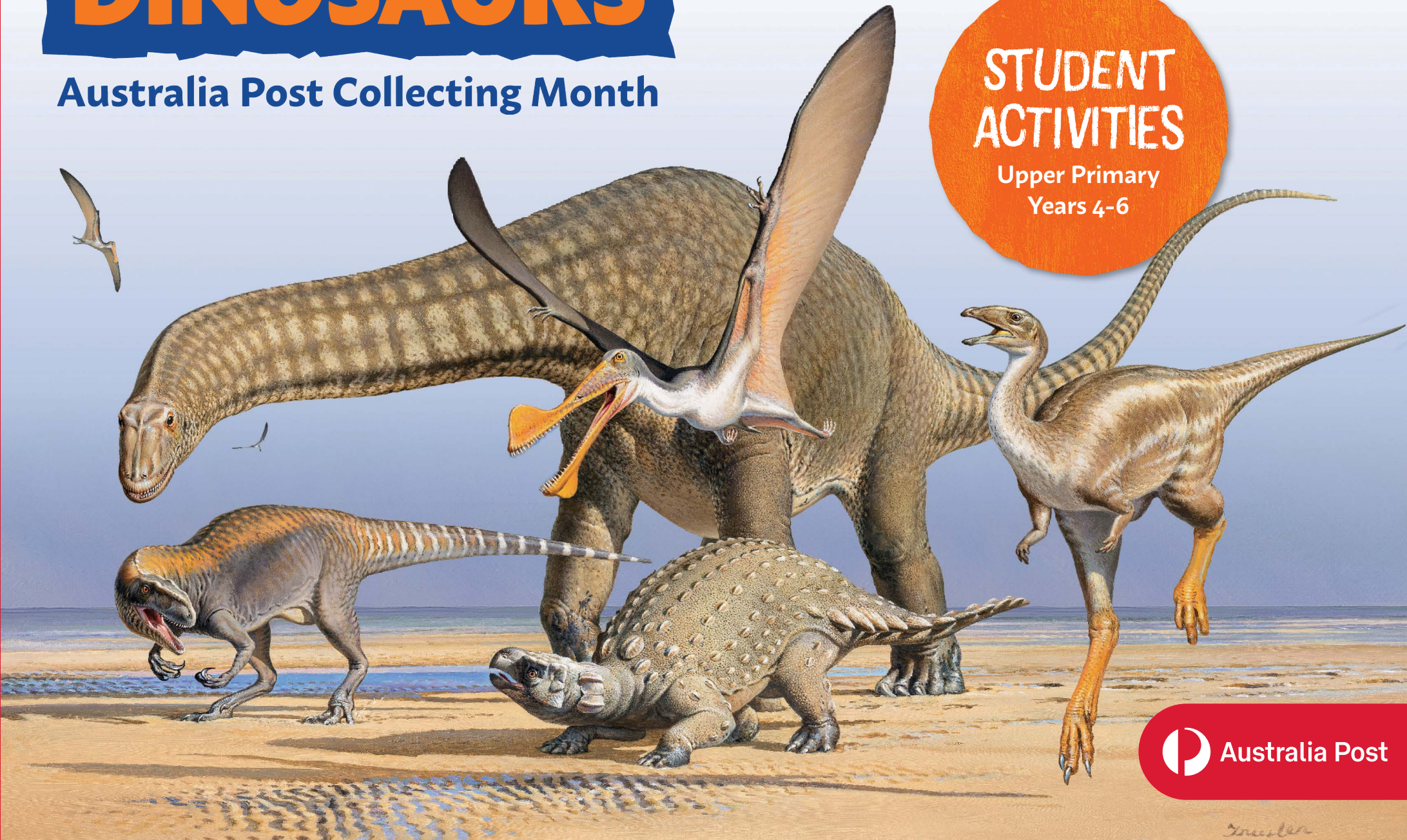


A U S T R A L I A N D I N O S A U R S

ROARING INTO THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD!

Australia Post Collecting Month

STUDENT
ACTIVITIES
Upper Primary
Years 4-6



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



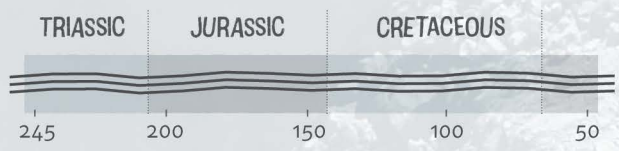
DISCOVERED IN 2004 NEAR
WINTON, QLD

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

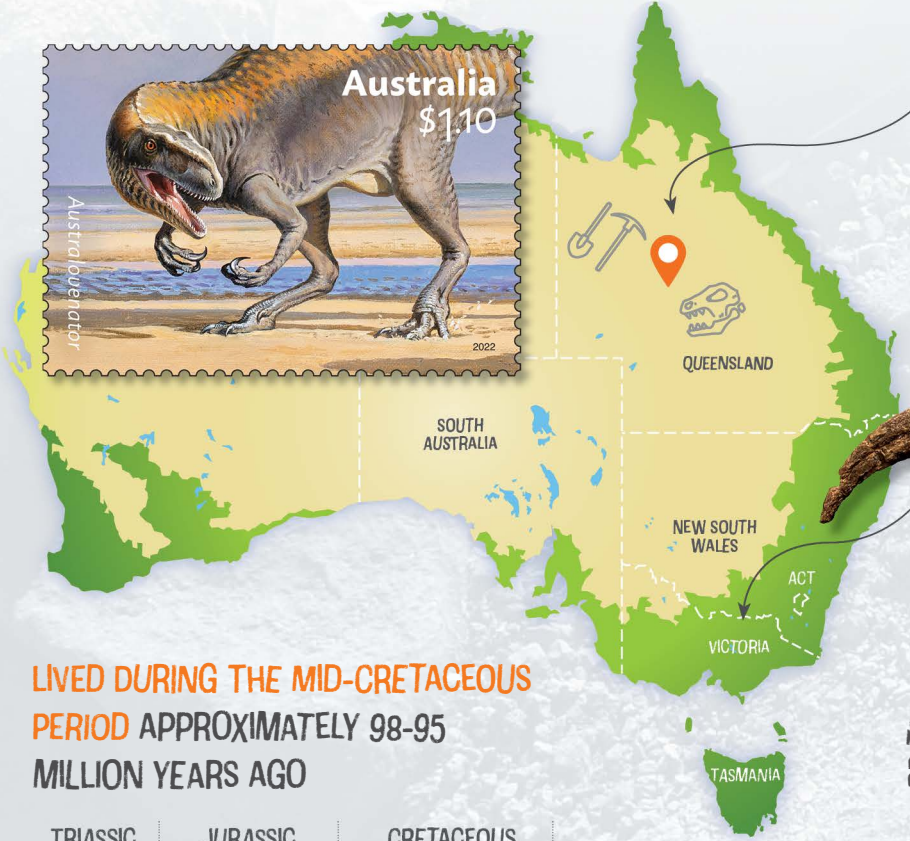


AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

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.



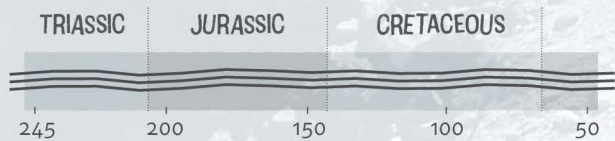
AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

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

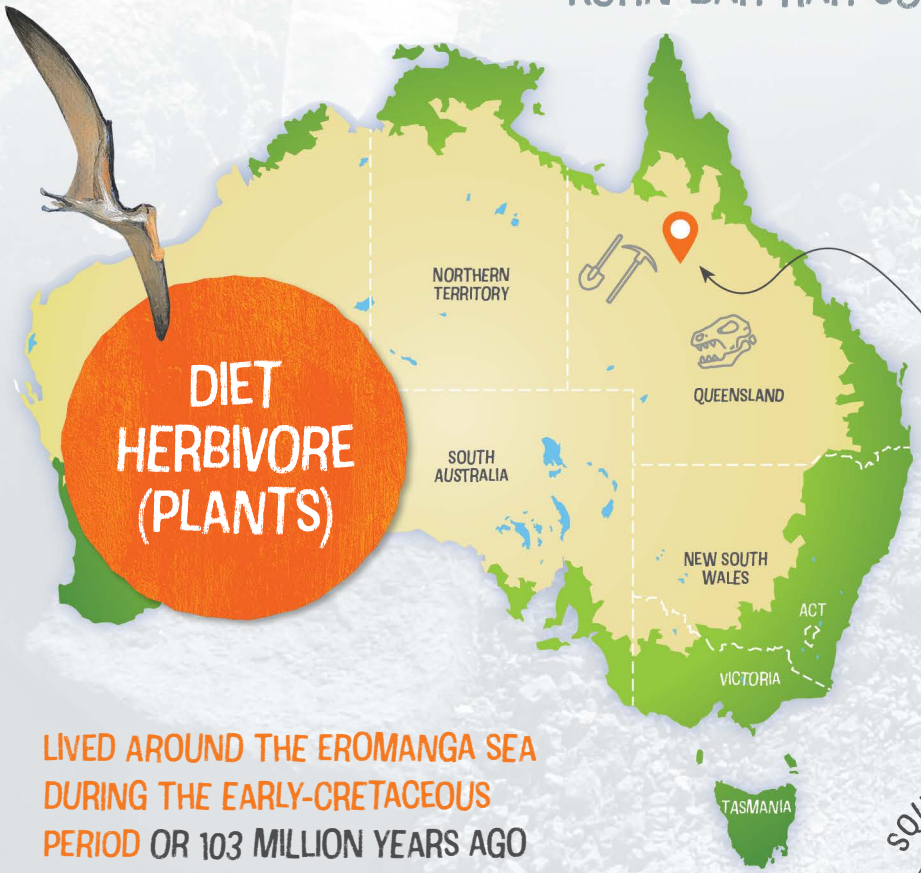


INTERESTING FACTS

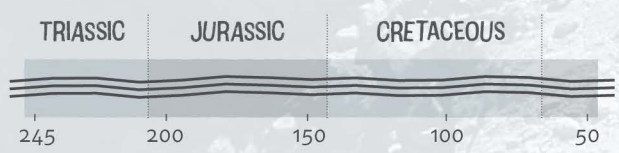
This dinosaur's last meal of ferns and flowering plants was found in its stomach - this type of fossil is called a cololite.

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

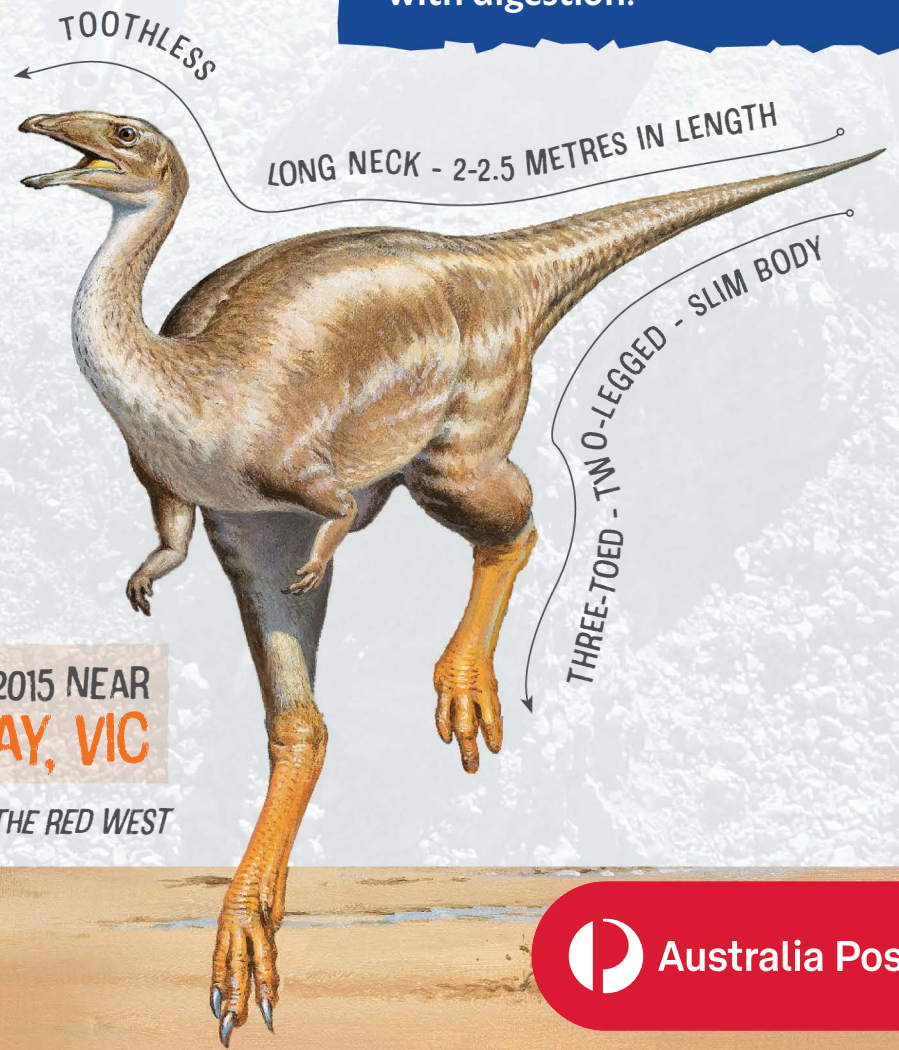
EL-AH-FRO-SAWR-EENE THEH-RUH-POD

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

AUSTRALIAN DINOSAURS

Australia Post Collecting Month

ACTIVITY 1 GONDWANA

STEP 1 - LEARN

Gondwana no longer exists as it did millions of years ago.

Investigate which modern continents were part of Gondwana.

STEP 2 - THINK

Read the prehistoric fact cards and note down which dinosaurs lived in:

- Southern Australia 110 million years ago
- Queensland 103 million years ago

STEP 3 - EXPLORE

In Queensland, 98-95 million years ago, the land was covered in conifer forests, rivers, billabongs and mud flats. Small mammals, reptiles and amphibians probably lived in the undergrowth - but dinosaurs dominated the land.

Read the prehistoric fact cards to discover which dinosaurs and pterosaurs lived in Queensland during this time.

Draw a map of Australia to show where each of the 5 prehistoric creatures lived.

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Use the worksheet to cut out the continents and countries.

Piece them together into how Gondwana used to be formed.

FUN FACTS

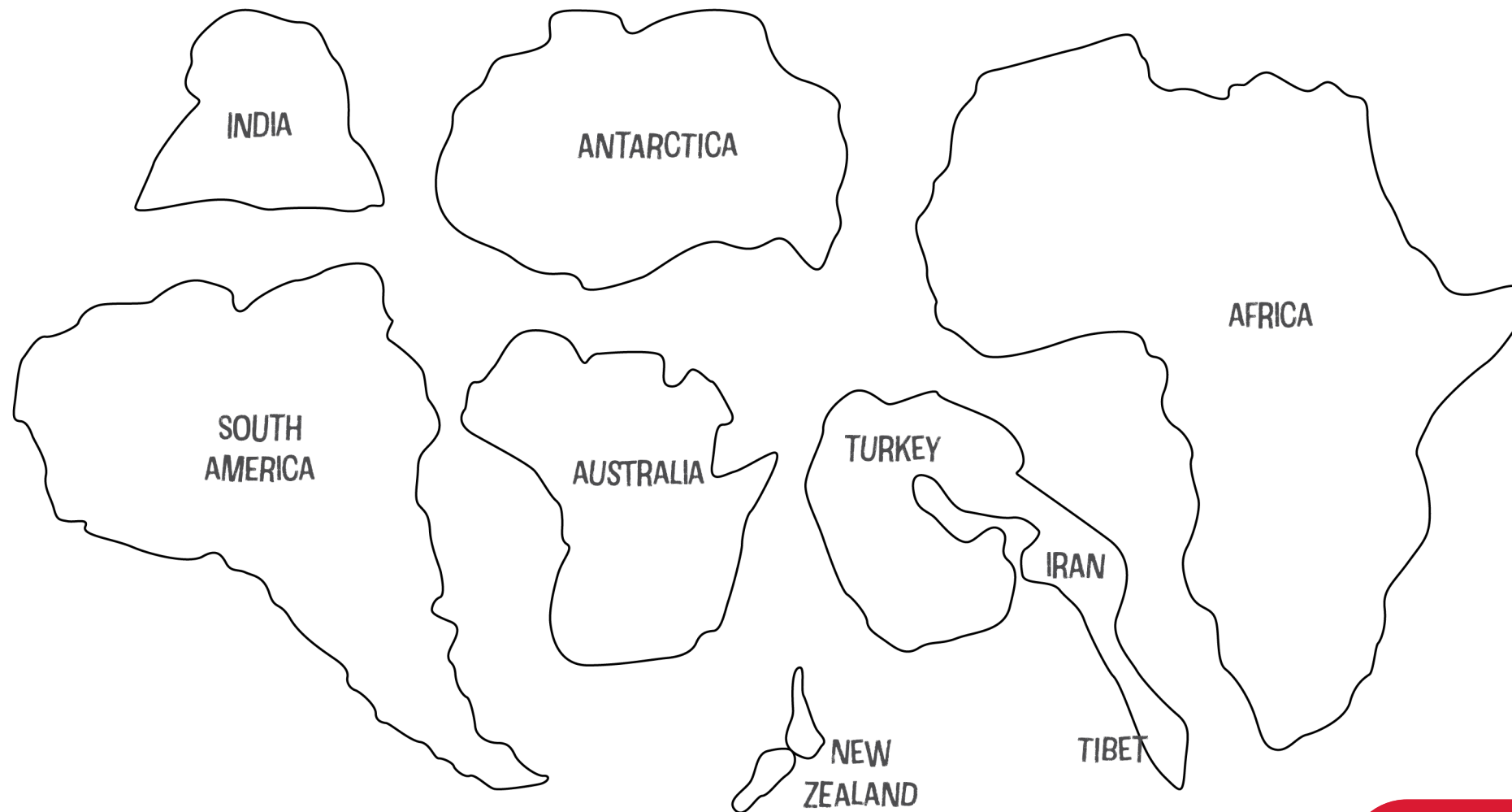
100 million years ago Southern Australia had many fast flowing rivers, forests and bogs. The landscape was home to many animals.



ACTIVITY 1

GONDWANA LAND

Gondwana no longer exists as it did millions of years ago. Cut out the continents and countries then piece them together into how Gondwana was formed millions of years ago.



ACTIVITY 2

LAW OF THE LAND: PREDATORS AND PREY

STEP 1 - LEARN

Banjo was an *Australovenator* and Matilda was a *Diamantinasaurus*.

Banjo the dinosaur was a ferocious predator. It had three curved claws on each hand, long muscular legs for chasing prey, and small blade-like teeth. It most likely hunted other dinosaurs.

STEP 3 - INVESTIGATE

Predict and record how big Banjo was in comparison to things we find in our world today e.g. transport, animals, buildings.

In pairs, use a metre ruler, measuring tape or trundle wheel to measure the length and height of Banjo.

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

In the school courtyard, as a class use chalk to sketch out the life size (to scale) measurements of the 5 prehistoric creatures discovered in Australia.

Compare and contrast their measurements, order them in ascending height.

What are some similarities and differences between the biggest to smallest?

STEP 2 - THINK

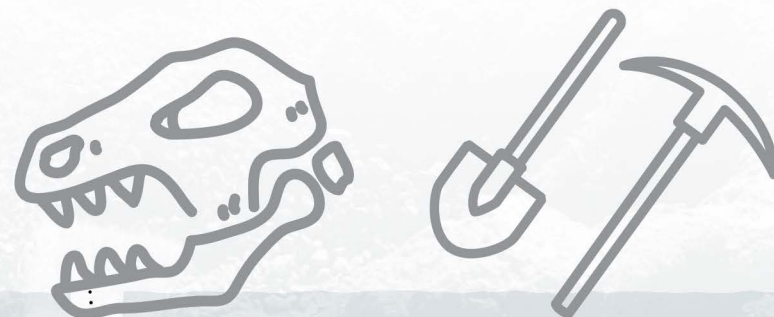
Banjo's bones were found alongside those of 'Matilda'. After researching each dinosaur, explain:
What differences can you see between Matilda and Banjo?
Who is the predator and who is the prey?
What do you think happened to Banjo and Matilda?

FUN FACT

Having long, muscular arms meant that *Australovenator* was a great hugger, but its cuddles could kill.



ACTIVITY 3 WRITING HISTORY



STEP 1 - LEARN

A palaeontologist is someone who studies the history of life on Earth. They do this by looking at fossils. The rocks on the Victorian coastline where the elaphrosaurine theropod was found are eroding. This is due to the waves washing over them again and again.

FUN FACT

Many dinosaur fossils have been found in Australia, including the 5 prehistoric creatures in this activity guide.

STEP 2 - THINK

Many dinosaur fossils have been found in Australia. Use the prehistoric fact cards to find out where the elaphrosaurine theropod was discovered.

STEP 3 - INVESTIGATE

Investigate the job of a palaeontologist. Create a *Palaeontologist Wanted* job advertisement using the worksheet. What skills, experience and personality traits are needed to do the job?

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

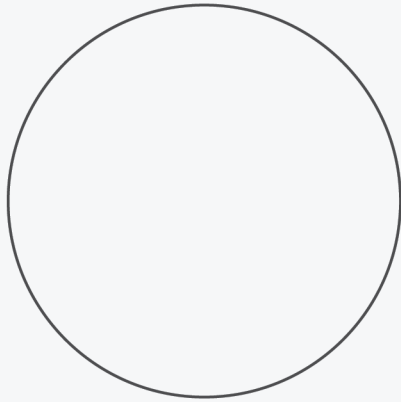
What does the word erosion mean? How might the sea and erosion help with new discoveries? Research this further.



ACTIVITY 3

WANTED! PALAEOONTOLOGIST

Job Title _____



Duties

Qualifications

Skills

Experience

Characteristics (personality traits)

Other information

ACTIVITY 4 AUSSIE ADAPTATIONS

STEP 1 - LEARN

Ferrodraco was a prehistoric flying reptile, not a dinosaur. It is said to have had interlocking teeth which were curved and cone like. At the front of the mouth they were long and straight, and at the back they were small and hooked. A mouth perfect for trapping fish.

STEP 2 - THINK

Read the prehistoric fact card for the *Ferrodraco*. Which Australian birds does *Ferrodraco* look like? *Ferrodraco*'s body was similar in some ways to animals we have on Earth today. Compare the wing structure of *Ferrodraco* and a similar creature today, such as a bat.

STEP 3 - INVESTIGATE

Look carefully at *Ferrodraco*'s mouth. What makes it unique and different? Draw a diagram of the *Ferrodraco*'s head and label the parts. Pay close attention to the: Interlocking teeth, Front teeth, Back teeth

FUN FACT

Ferrodraco is nicknamed the Iron Dragon and lived near rivers and lakes. Its diet was mostly fish and it had 40 teeth.



STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Complete a labelled diagram of *Ferrodraco* and use this to plan and build a small model of its head. Use papier-mâché or modelling clay. Paint the final model in colours you think the *Ferrodraco* might have been.

ACTIVITY 5 PREHISTORIC PLACES



DISCOVERED IN 2004 NEAR
WINTON, QLD

STEP 1 - LEARN

Diamantinasaurus or 'Matilda' lived in Queensland 95 million years ago. Back then, the landscape was flat and covered in forests. Rivers, billabongs and mud flats ran across the lands. Flowering plants and ferns dominated the undergrowth. The waters were full of mussels, bony fish, turtles, crocs and aquatic lizards.

STEP 2 - THINK

On the land there were insects, reptiles and small mammals - but it was dinosaurs that ruled.

In your own words, explain the features of this landscape that would have been an ideal place for Matilda to live.

STEP 3 - CREATE

Visualise the landscape. Draw, paint, collage, model or digitally design Matilda's habitat. Don't forget to include Matilda, and give it something to eat.

FUN FACT

Diamantinasaurus was nicknamed 'Matilda' after the song 'Waltzing Matilda' written by Banjo Paterson

STEP 4 - GO FURTHER

Think about the environment in Queensland 95 million years ago. Has it changed much over time?

Research climates in other parts of the world that have similar conditions to that of where Matilda lived.

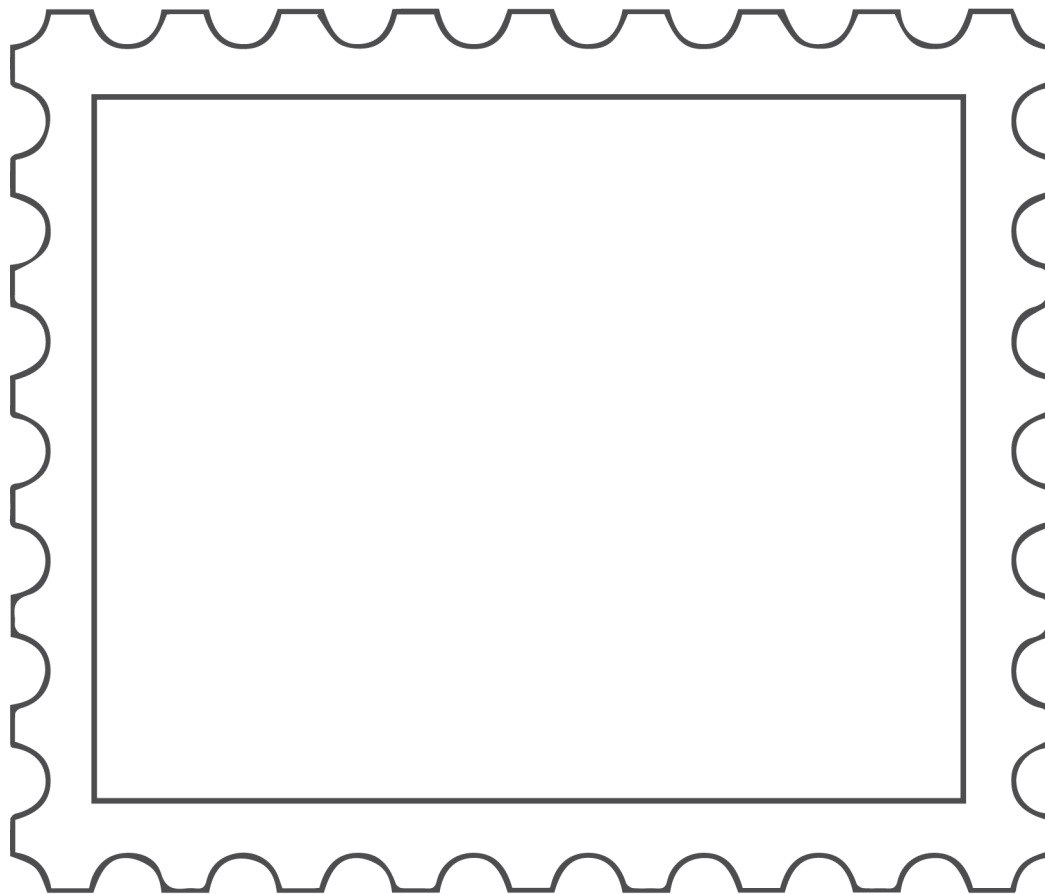
If *Diamantinasaurus* was still alive today, where in the world would it be best suited to live?

How might climate change have impacted the distribution of habitats that it might have liked?



STUDENT LED TASK DESIGNER STAMPS

Imagine a world where prehistoric creatures could be any colour, shape or size. How would they look in your world? Use the stamp design template to design your own prehistoric creature stamp. Let your imagination run wild!



GO FURTHER! Can you write a short rationale that explains 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
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