



Dinosaur Dig

Once the funding is secured, the digging begins! Sometimes, fossils are pushed up to the surface of the ground. Wind and rain clear away the top layer of the ground in a process called **erosion**. This makes fossils easier to find. But other times, paleontologists must be patient. They might have to dig deep into the rock for days before finding a fossil. Once a fossil is found, it is carefully cleaned, weighed, and measured.

This is another example of why paleontologists need to know math. They must be precise when measuring the fossils they find. They want to make sure that the right fossils are assigned to the correct animal.

Plus, they use those measurements to solve other missing pieces of the puzzle. If they measure a leg bone incorrectly, it might throw off how tall they think the animal was.



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Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

Content area reading is important. Students need practice in reading and exploring all types of texts, including mathematical texts. Understanding mathematical texts will lead to a deeper understanding of mathematics itself.

This guide will help you fully utilize the Paleontologists Dig Math! book, which is part of the Need-to-Know Math leveled readers series. These books are designed to actively engage readers in a high-interest story that will build grade-level math skills and improve reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary.

With the Paleontologists Dig Math! book, the reader will learn all about numerical expressions and measurement. The Providing Instruction section in this guide offers suggestions for before, during, and after-reading activities. Activity sheets, assessments, and a journal provide opportunities to reinforce and assess both reading comprehension and math skills.

Awesome Advice

- Remain positive and encouraging—make reading fun!
- Set up a cozy spot for reading.
- Encourage the student to read out loud to improve fluency and comprehension.
- Have the student write down any unfamiliar words, and then look them up together.
- Ask the student to summarize what is happening after each page spread.
- Make sure the student understands the math skills in the book before reading.
- If the student becomes bored or frustrated, take a brain break!

Materials Needed

- Paleontologists Dig Math! book
- activity sheets (pages 8–12)
- assessments (pages 13–14)
- journal (page 15)
- crayons
- pencil and eraser

Brain Break Ideas

- Dance to a favorite song.
- Spend a few minutes exploring outside.
- Do ten star jumps.
- Practice a few yoga poses or simple stretches.
- Take five deep breaths.

Name:

Dino Measurements

Directions: Read the problems below. Complete the charts using what you know about converting measurements.

1. An *Ankylosaurus* dinosaur weighed 4 tons. What did it weigh in pounds? What did it weigh in ounces? (One ton equals 2,000 pounds. One pound equals 16 ounces.)

Weight in Tons	Weight in Pounds	Weight in Ounces
4 tons		

2. A paleontologist works at the Natural History Museum. She is given the task of measuring a new box of fossils and recording the data in a chart. The chart needs each fossil recorded in feet and inches. Help her finish the chart. (One foot equals 12 inches.)

	Feet	Inches
Fossil 1		12
Fossil 2	4.5	
Fossil 3		60
Fossil 4	2.5	