

Dino-Facts

Procedure:

1. Each group will receive a set of Dino-Facts in an envelope.
2. Remove the facts and arrange them so that everyone in the group can read them.
3. Everyone in the group must read each Dino-Fact.
4. Group the facts together and develop at least one theory about dinosaur behavior for each of the three types of dinosaurs.
5. Be sure to write your theories on a piece of paper.
6. Each group will present their theories to the rest of the class as well as the supporting evidence for the theory.

1) *Maiasauras* were herbivorous. Adults weighed roughly 3-4 tons. They probably ate about 200 lbs. of food each day.

2) Many *Maiasaura* nests have been found at two sites, Egg Mountain and Egg Island. At the time of the dinosaurs, each of these sites was an island. Although islands have rather limited space, the nests are usually found 25-30 feet apart.

3) The sharp serrated teeth of a small dinosaur called *Troödon* have been found in the nesting areas of *Maiasauras*.

4) Large numbers of bones found at one location in Montana indicate that there existed a herd of *Maiasauras* of nearly 10,000 individuals. These individuals varied in size from 9' to 25' in length.

5) The dinosaur nests at both the Egg Mountain and Egg Island locations have been found at three different depths. Several layers of sandstone were deposited between the nesting horizons.

6) The bones of most newborn birds are not fully ossified (hardened into bone). The ends are still relatively soft and spongy and made of cartilage. As a result, newborn birds can stand up only momentarily. Their bones cannot support them.

7) An adult *Maiasaura* reached a size of 25-30 feet in length. It weighed 3-4 tons.

- 8) The shells found in the nests of the *Maiasaura* are all broken up.
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- 9) The front teeth of many dinosaurs like *Maiasaura* are very interesting. There is a heavy enamel layer on the outside of the upper teeth, but that very same layer is on the inside of the lower teeth. As the teeth come together, therefore, a self-sharpening effect takes place. The teeth become like chisels.
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- 10) The shells found in the nests of *Orodromeus* are not all broken up. The lower eggshell is usually intact.
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- 11) The presence of large numbers of bones at one site suggests that *Maiasauras* were found in herds up to 10,000 in number.
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- 12) The bones of the hatchlings of *Maiasaura* are not fully ossified. The ends are still relatively soft and spongy and cartilaginous.
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- 13) Examination of the embryos of *Maiasaura* show wear on the front teeth. This has occurred before hatching.
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- 14) At birth, *Maiasauras* are about 12 inches in length. Bones have been found in the nests of *Maiasauras* that were over 3 feet in length. This is very common.
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- 15) The bones of the hatchlings of *Orodromeus* are fully ossified. That means that the ends of the bones are fully developed and very strong.
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