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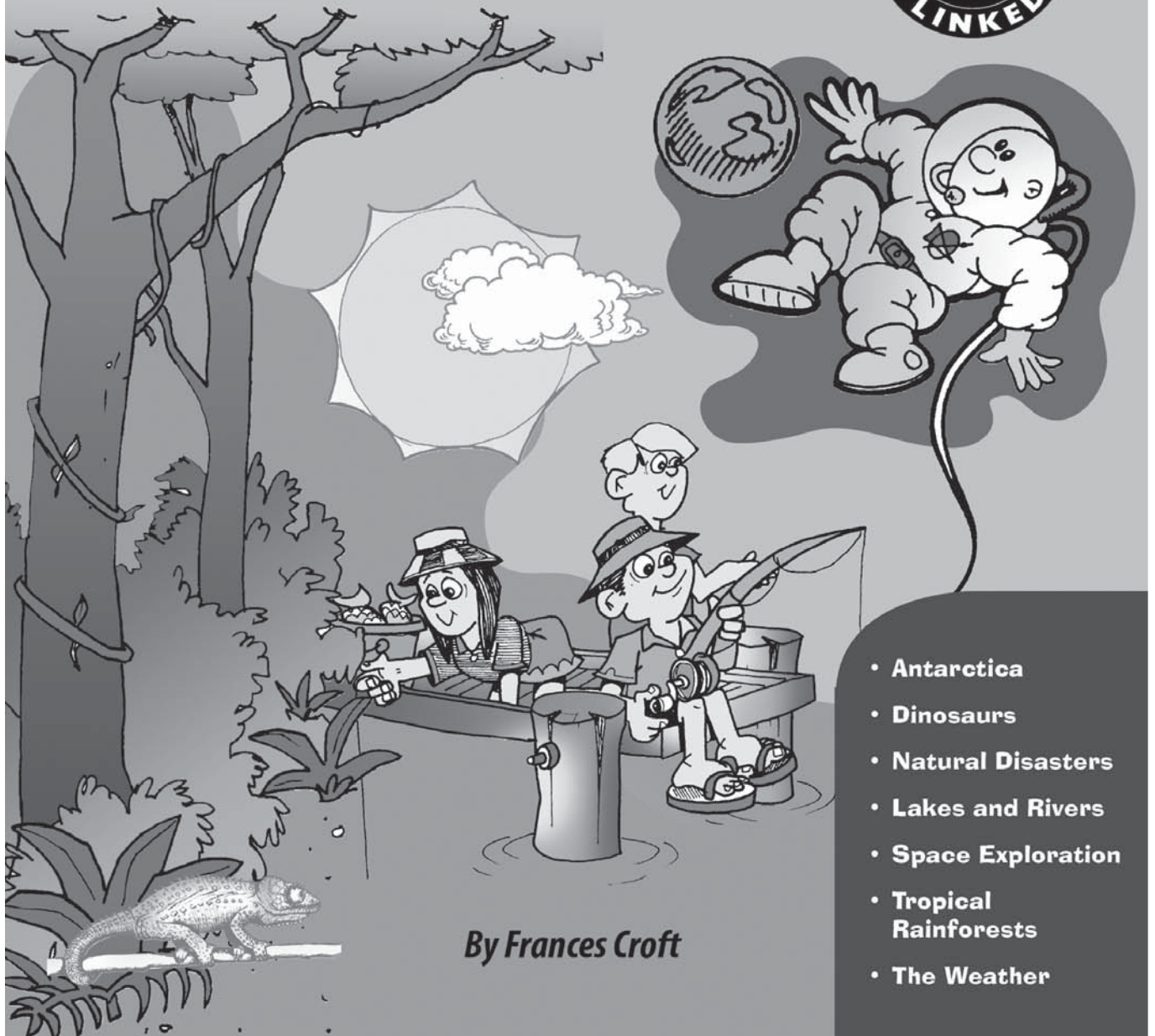
*Developing English Skills  
Through Themes*



10+ YEARS

# Our World!

*Creative and practical activity sheets to teach  
English skills in the primary classroom.*



*By Frances Croft*

- Antarctica
- Dinosaurs
- Natural Disasters
- Lakes and Rivers
- Space Exploration
- Tropical Rainforests
- The Weather

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# Teachers' Notes

Our World is the second book in the series *Developing English Skills Through Themes*.

There are seven sections in this book and the activities are suitable for students ten years of age and above.

The activities relate to the English curriculum and have been carefully constructed to help students continue to develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The activities are fun, varied and the instructions are clear.

The activities:

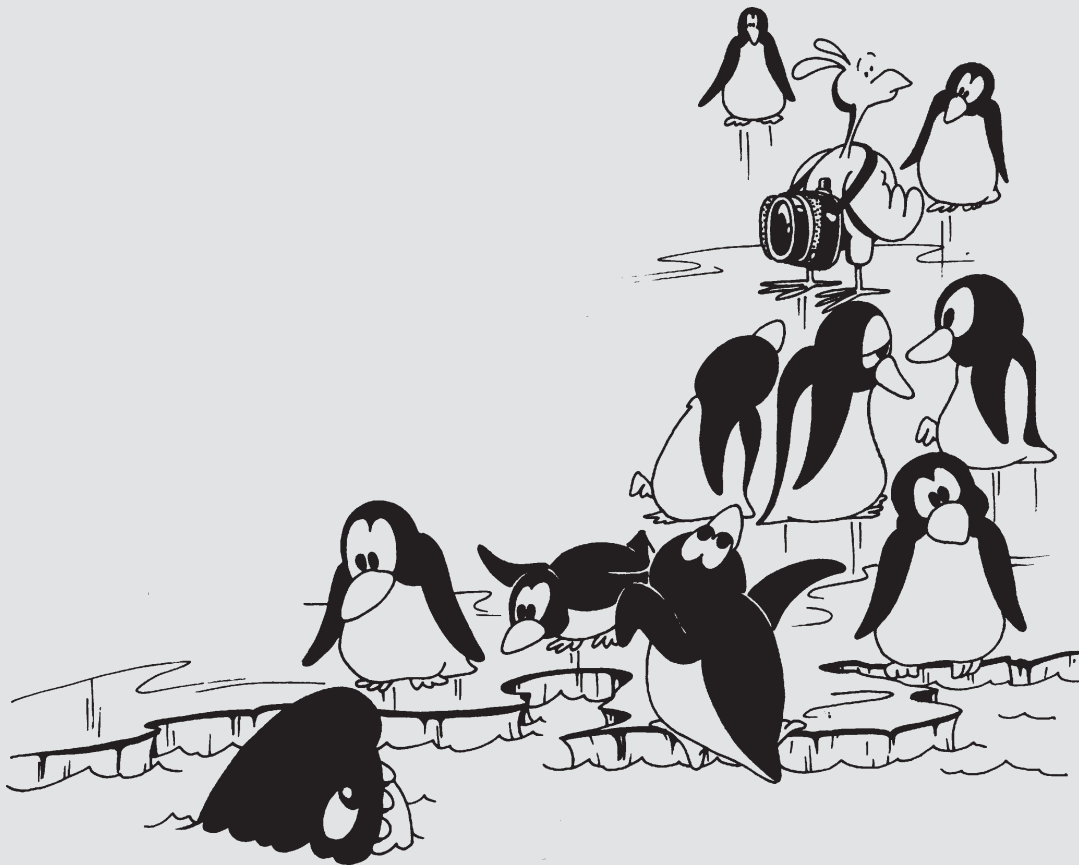
- will help the students continue to develop their understanding of poems, feature articles, diary entries and short stories
- can be completed by students of different abilities
- allow all students to succeed
- increases students' confidence and raises their self-esteem
- could be used as an introduction to an in-depth study of the subject
- allow students to work in groups or individually

It is suggested that the students' work be displayed.

Answers, where possible, are at the back of the book.

Each topic can be approached in different ways and the students may want to seek further information about each subject.

# Antarctica



■ Read the text below about Antarctica then answer the questions.

## Antarctica Sheet 1



Antarctica is located at the South Pole and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. This area is the largest single mass of ice on Earth. Antarctica is about twice the size of Australia and has a harsh climate. This continent is the coldest, driest and windiest place on Earth and blizzards often lash the area. 98% of Antarctica is ice and snow, but below the ice and snow there is land. During the summer, Antarctica has twenty-four hours of sunlight. Antarctica is not owned by any country.

Nobody lives permanently in Antarctica because of the harsh environment. Many explorers have made expeditions to the South Pole and Antarctic scientists carry out experiments at research stations located on the continent.

Antarctica is a wonderful destination for tourists. Cruise ships allow people to see the majestic mountains, wilderness, glaciers and wild life as well as experience the stillness of the area. There are guidelines for tourists so that they do not damage the environment. Another way to see Antarctica is by plane.

Only a few plants survive in Antarctica and those that do, grow very slowly because of the cold. In the waters off the coast of Antarctica there are large populations of whales, seals and penguins. The Elephant Seal is the largest seal. About 40 million penguins live at Antarctica and the Adélie is the most numerous. This penguin lives on rocky areas. The Emperor penguin is the largest. The Petrel bird also lives in Antarctica and it helps keep fleas alive. Thousands of fleas live on each Petrel bird and they burrow into the birds' feathers to keep warm.

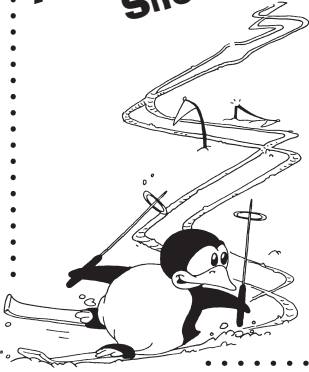
### Questions

1. Where is Antarctica? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain Antarctica's climate in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How large is Antarctica? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why don't people live permanently in Antarctica? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think scientists work in Antarctica? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Name two animals that live in this area. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do plants grow very slowly? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What do you feel about this continent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

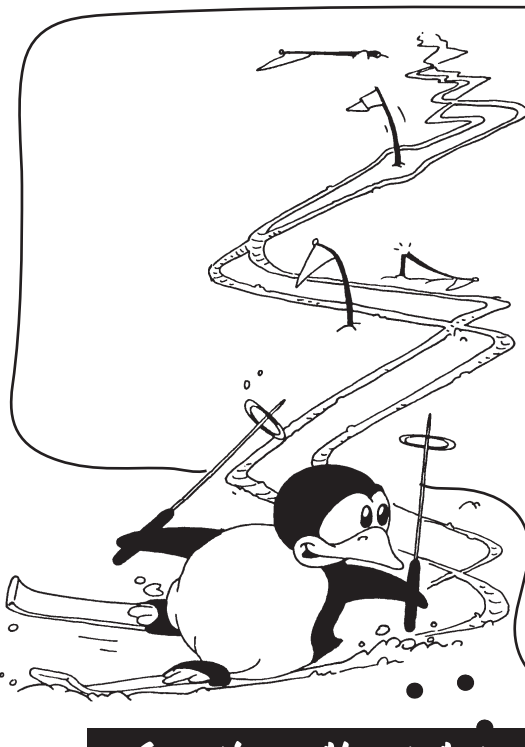
## Creative Letters

### Antarctica Sheet 2

■ Write the word Antarctica so that it shows the type of area it is.



■ In the space below, write three or four facts about Antarctica.



A large, rounded rectangular box containing a smaller version of the penguin skiing illustration on the left and several horizontal lines for writing on the right.

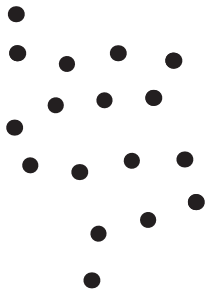
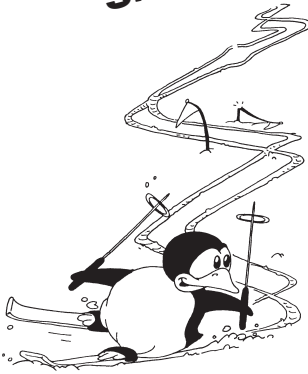
### Questions About Antarctica

■ Write each of the list words in a suitable question. You do not have to write the answers. Try and write a question that can't be answered with yes or no.

- coldest continent
- countries
- surrounded by water
- icebergs
- scientists

Five horizontal lines for writing questions.

# Antarctica Sheet 3



## A Doctor's Poem

- Imagine that you are a doctor and you have come to work in Antarctica for one year. Write a poem about what you see and feel when you step off the plane. *\*Remember, poetry does not have to rhyme.*

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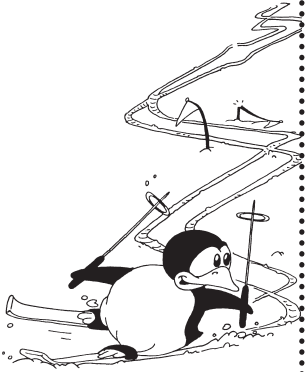
- You are a tourist. Write a postcard to a friend describing what your greatest surprise was during your cruise. Was it when you saw your first seal? Was it when you saw the mountains or felt the stillness when the cruise ship arrived?

## Antarctic Activities

On the back of this sheet, write down some of the activities that you think people do in Antarctica to pass the time when they have to stay inside.

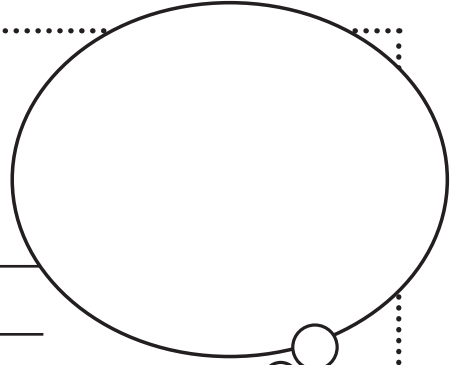


# Antarctica Sheet 4



## Top Holiday Destination

■ Explain why you think tourists enjoy going to Antarctica. Illustrate one of these reasons in the speech bubble.  
*\*There could be several reasons.*



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



■ Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of weather does Antarctica have?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What type of clothing would a person in Antarctica have to wear?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write one fact about the bird life in Antarctica.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you were a tourist what would you expect to see in Antarctica?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. If you were going on a cruise ship to Antarctica what would you take with you?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think there are guidelines for tourists?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Of what value is Antarctica to the people living on Earth?

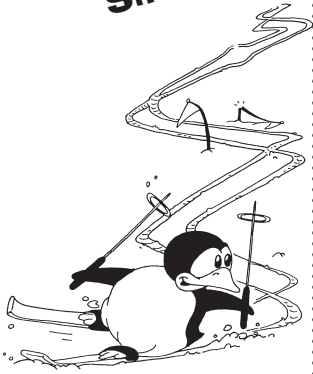
\_\_\_\_\_

## Survival

On the back of this sheet, draw and label what you would need if you were going to survive for two nights in Antarctica away from the safety of the research station. Think about shelter and food.



# Antarctica Sheet 5



## Animals In Antarctica

A food chain is important to all of us. Explain what you think a food chain is. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On the back of this sheet arrange the animals from the list below in order. Place the strongest predator at the top and the weakest predator at the bottom. You could show this information as a food web. If you can, add some more predators. Fish, penguins, shrimps, seals, whales, small fish, krill.

- Choose an animal that lives in Antarctica and list six facts about its way of life and habitat.



**Fact 1:**

**Fact 2:**

**Fact 3:**

**Fact 4:**

**Fact 5:**

**Fact 6:**

## Make A Mobile

1. Draw the shape of your Antarctic animal on a card.
2. Repeat this shape five more times so that you have six shapes altogether.
3. Rewrite your six facts onto the back of the animal shaped pieces of card.
4. Decorate and colour one side of your six shapes and cut them out.
5. Punch a hole in the top of each shape.
6. Tie your six shapes to string and attach to a coat hanger or two overlapping sticks.
7. Display.

# Dinosaurs

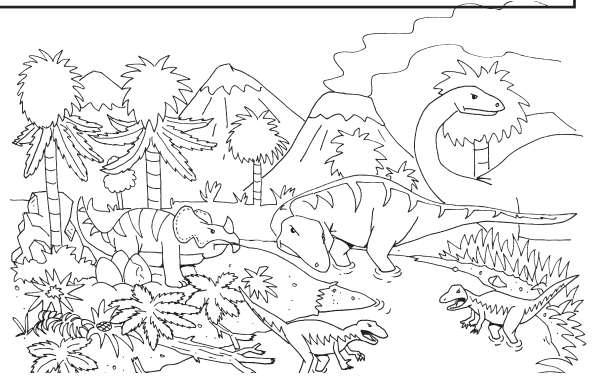


■ Read the text below about dinosaurs then answer the questions.

## Dinosaurs



Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. The world in which the dinosaurs lived was very different to the world in which we live today. When the dinosaurs lived, there weren't any people on the Earth.



The word dinosaur means terrible lizard. These animals were a branch of reptiles. It is thought that they were all cold-blooded animals, laid eggs and could not control their body temperature.

We have learned what we know about dinosaurs from their fossil remains. Fossils are pieces of bones, teeth and even footprints.

These fossils help scientists guess how the dinosaurs lived. When a fossil is found it is handled very carefully. Each fossil that is found is labelled to show where it was found and who found it. Bones of dinosaurs allow a skeleton of a dinosaur to be recreated. These reptiles walked upright and some were meat eaters while others ate plants.

There are many types of dinosaurs. Some dinosaurs had feathers and these are thought to have been for flying and frightening other dinosaurs.

Even today, dinosaur fossil remains are being found in many parts of the world. Dinosaur Cove is located in the south-east corner of Australia. Remains of dinosaurs have been found here. Something happened on Earth which led to the death of dinosaurs. There are several theories, but no-one really knows the truth.

### Questions

1. How many years ago did dinosaurs live? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are fossils? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is Dinosaur Cove? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What can dinosaur fossils tell us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens to fossils when they are found? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the word dinosaur mean? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think some dinosaurs developed feathers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why do you think all the dinosaurs died? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

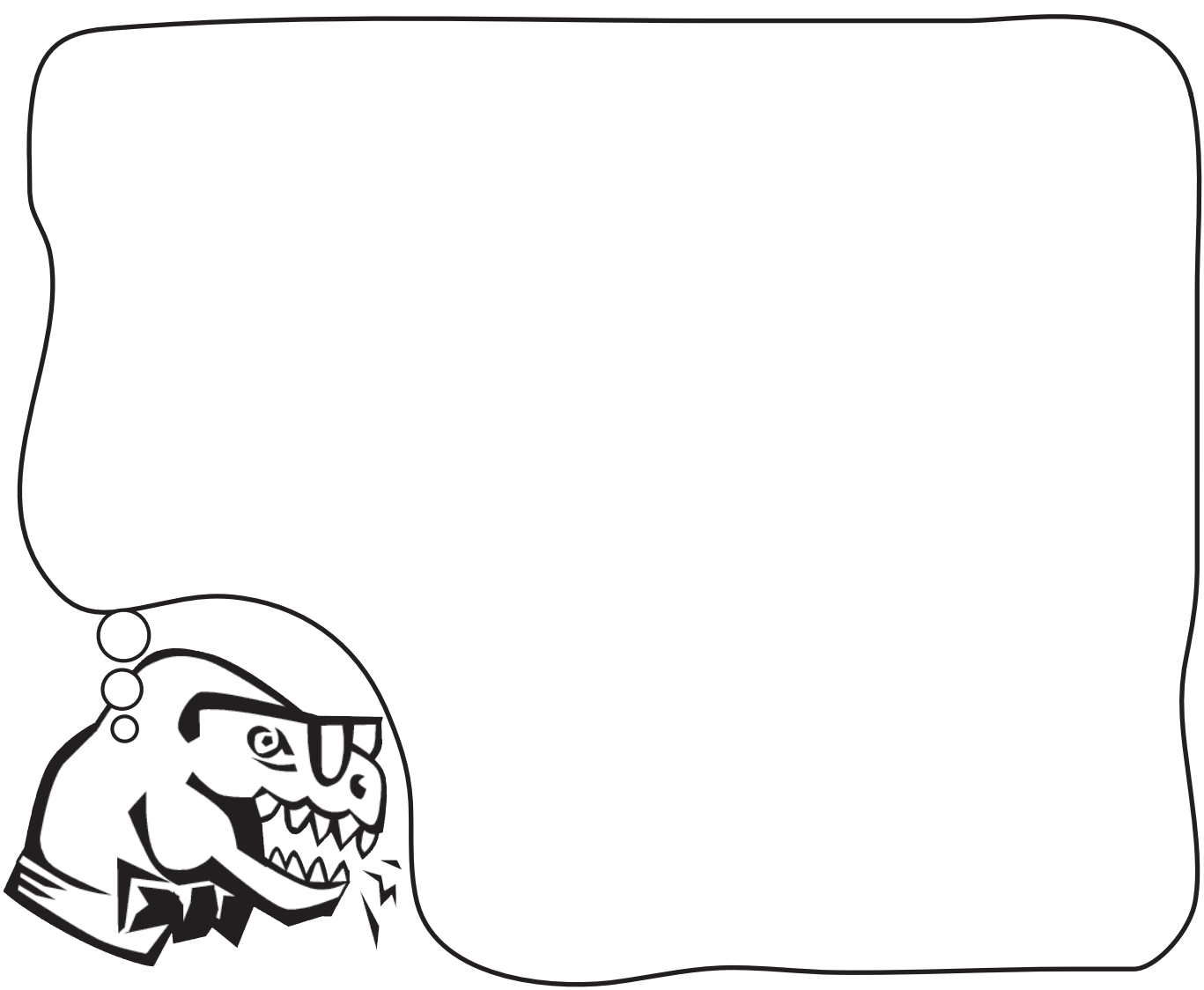
# Dinosaurs

## Creative Letters



■ Write the word dinosaur so that the letters resemble dinosaurs.

■ Write at least thirty words that could be used when talking about dinosaurs.



## Dinosaurs Facts

■ On the back of this sheet draw eight big dinosaur eggs. Write one fact about dinosaurs in each egg. Give your work a suitable heading.

**Books On Dinosaurs**

- Find three books about dinosaurs. Complete the table below for each book.

**Dinosaurs**



Title	Publisher	Date of publication

- Choose one of the books that you have found and on the back of this sheet design a new cover for it.
- Choose another of your three books and rewrite the back or inside blurb here.

**Talking Dinosaurs**

- Plan and present a three minute talk about dinosaurs to your friends.  
*\*Will you have a chart with some facts on it? Think about what you will say. When you present the speech record it on tape.*