

Prehistoric Life Guided Tour Post-Visit: Archaeopteryx Flyers

Grade	Suggested Time	NGSS Connections
1-3	45 minutes	<p>1-LS1-1: Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.</p> <p>2-LS4-1: Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.</p> <p>3-LS4-2: Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.</p>

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to further understand the life of Archaeopteryx and how it serves as a link between dinosaurs and birds.

Materials Needed

Archaeopteryx Flyer cutout and instructions (included in this lesson)
Single hole puncher
Ribbon
Glue
Tape
Straws/Coffee stirrers

Background and Key Vocabulary

Archaeopteryx is a key fossil in understanding dinosaurs. It lived around 150 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. Archaeopteryx had small, pointy teeth, meaning that it was carnivorous, a meat-eater. First found in Solnhofen, Germany, many of the remains found of this prehistoric creature contain imprints of feathers around its wing and tail. This evidence suggests that Archaeopteryx is the missing link between dinosaurs and the birds we know today.

Activity

1. Begin by asking the class what they remember about Archaeopteryx. If there are some still unsure, read to the class the “Background and Key Vocabulary” section with wording appropriate to their age.
2. Explain to the class that they are going to re-create Archaeopteryx.
3. Continue by beginning the craft, letting each student create their own Archaeopteryx Flyer.

Archaeopteryx Flyer Instructions

Color your Archaeopteryx and cut it out. Fold it in half along the dotted line to crease.

Use a hole punch to punch a hole as shown.

Tape a piece of ribbon approximately 2 feet long and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide to the feet.

Glue the head and feet together—make sure that you don't glue the wings together!

Cut a piece of string approximately 2 feet long. Tie one end of it through the hole.

Open the wings and tape a straw approximately 5.5 in. (plastic coffee stirrers work well for this) to the top of them.

To make your Archaeopteryx fly, hold onto the string and run with the Archaeopteryx flyer traveling behind you.



