



## Walsh School

### **FOSSILS AND DINOSAURS- Studying Extinction**

**Grade:** 2nd

**Teacher(s):**

Elizabeth Casper- classroom teacher

Victoria Jackson- science teacher

**Artist:**

Susana Aguilar- theater artist

**Academic Content and Learning Skills:**

Science, Researching, Reading, Writing, Public Speaking

**Arts Content:**

Music and theater performance skills, textile arts, poetry, play writing and dioramas

#### **Overview**

Second grade students increased writing, thinking, researching, and cooperative learning skills by studying fossils and dinosaurs through a variety of arts media, culminating in an original performance authored and performed by the students.

#### **Research and Inquiry**

Students used a variety of resource materials, including videotapes, to do research on dinosaurs and why they became extinct.

#### **A Variety of Hands-on Approaches to Generating and Representing New Knowledge**

- Students made dioramas
- Wrote and illustrated poems
- Designed and created felt banners
- Learned songs and wrote a group story for performance.

#### **Connecting Hands-on Activities to Applied Analytical Thinking**

The students made fossil imprints, related fossils to living plants and animals, and matched dinosaur bones to the dinosaurs.

#### **Field Research from Sources Outside the School**

Field trips to see the fossil dinosaur collection at the Field Museum of Natural History and to see the play "Dr. Dinosaur"

#### **Assessing, Presenting, Teaching Others, and Engaging Parents and Community**

The unit culminated in the musical performance "Sweet Curious Dinosaurs" written by the class and performed with their banners as the backdrop. There were two performances for families and for the primary grades.

**Time Frame**

Twelve weeks, two 2 hour sessions weekly