DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS
ACTIVITY SHEET
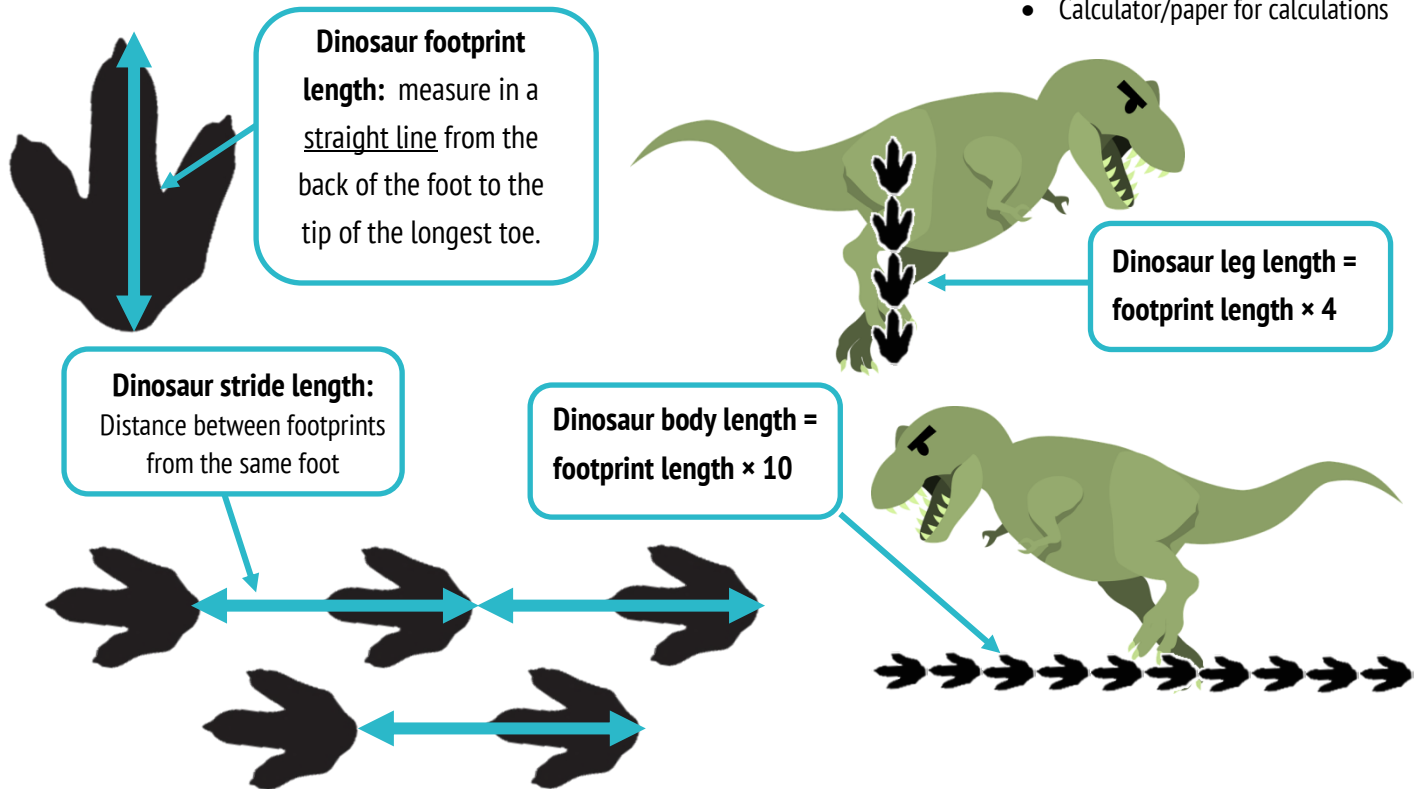
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DINOSAUR BODY SIZE

Dinosaur footprint length: measure in a straight line from the back of the foot to the tip of the longest toe.

Dinosaur leg length = footprint length × 4

Dinosaur stride length: Distance between footprints from the same foot

Dinosaur body length = footprint length × 10

1. Use a measuring tape, chalk and the information below to draw out your dinosaur footprints in the playground.
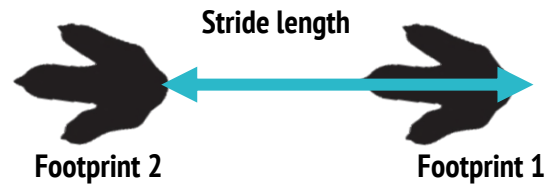
Tip - measure the footprint length first and then draw your footprint shape. If students are working in groups, each group should choose a different footprint.

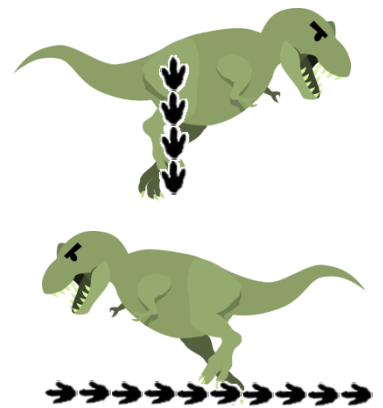| Dinosaur	Footprint shape	Footprint length - from back of foot to tip of longest toe (cm)	Stride length (cm)
Allosaurus		85	1020
Triceratops		90	900
Compsognathus		7.5	45
Brachiosaurus		260	1872

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2. Use your measuring tape to measure the dinosaur's stride length. Use chalk to mark where the second dinosaur footprint would go.

Stride length

Footprint 2   **Footprint 1**

3. Using the equations on page 1 work out the leg lengths and body lengths of each dinosaur. If you have space use a measuring tape and chalk to measure out the dinosaur body lengths in the playground (some of them will be very long!).

Dinosaur	Footprint length (cm)	Leg length (cm)	Body length (cm)
Allosaurus	85	340	850
Triceratops	90	360	900
Compsognathus	7.5	30	75
Brachiosaurus	260	1040	2600

DINOSAUR SPEED

We can now work out the relative speed of the dinosaur – whether it was walking, trotting or running, by looking at its leg length and stride length.

Dinosaur relative speed = stride length ÷ leg length

Stride length ÷ leg length	Dinosaur speed
<2	walking
2-2.9	trotting
>2.9	running

Work out the relative speeds of the different dinosaurs and fill in the table below.

Dinosaur	Stride length (cm)	Leg length (cm)	Stride length ÷ leg length	Relative speed (walking, trotting or running)
Allosaurus	1020	340	3	running
Triceratops	900	360	2.5	trotting
Compsognathus	45	30	1.5	walking
Brachiosaurus	1872	1040	1.8	walking