



G.A.T.E.WAYS

**invites children with a
passion for dinosaurs to ...**

‘Dinorama!’

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Now in its 26th year, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*.

This *JOURNEY* will run over four Tuesday mornings. With our knowledge of dinosaurs advancing so rapidly over the last few years, keeping up with the changing ideas is increasingly difficult. In this Journey we will investigate the very latest discoveries from around the world, especially the dino ‘hot-spots’ – China and Argentina – and also what’s happening here in Australia.

Requirements:

Please bring lead and coloured pencils and an eraser; a sketch pad A4 size or larger, a note book or small exercise book, and Morning tea (no nuts please).

SESSION ONE – Digging up the past

We investigate how scientists find information about dinosaurs. What can we know for sure, and what must we infer? We discover how long ago they lived, and appreciate the enormous time scales involved. We learn how only certain dinosaurs were found in particular places, and at particular times, and we find what lived with them, and what didn’t. Most importantly, we discover what exactly is a dinosaur!

SESSION TWO – Dwarves and giants and weirdoes

In this session, we look at dinosaur extremes, from the largest animals to ever exist – bigger than a blue whale! – to tiny dinosaurs that can sit on your hand! We investigate some of the weird ones, too; weird because of what they looked like, or what they did, or where they lived. Also, what about those weird names! Why are they so strange, and what do they mean?

SESSION THREE – The other ‘saurs’

We turn our attention to the other strange and sometimes scary ‘saurs’ of the past – the flying pterosaurs, and the swimming ichthyosaurs, pliosaurs, elasmosaurs and mosasaurs. Why aren’t they dinosaurs? What makes them different? We’ll meet pterosaurs as big as planes and as small as sparrows, and pliosaurs that were the largest predators to ever exist!

SESSION FOUR – Big, bad and gone

In our last session, we come face to face with the scariest dinosaurs – the huge tyrannosaurs and their even huger cousins. Yes, we now know of hunters bigger than T. rex! We also meet the small but vicious raptors, and learn a few surprising things about them! Lucky for us they’re not around anymore, so what happened to them? And did they all disappear, or are some dinosaurs around us right now?

Assessment and reporting

Students will be assessed partly on their involvement in and contribution to the discussions. Their written and illustrated work, both in class and homework, will also be assessed from both a scientific and artistic viewpoint. A short written report will be compiled on each student and forwarded to his or her parents or guardians.

About the presenter

Andrew Plant is a professional artist and trained zoologist who has been teaching for a number of years. He has written or illustrated over 100 science books for Australian and international publishers, and has travelled to China to study the feathered dinosaur fossils. Andrew has presented many fantastic programs for G.A.T.E.WAYS in his areas of expertise.