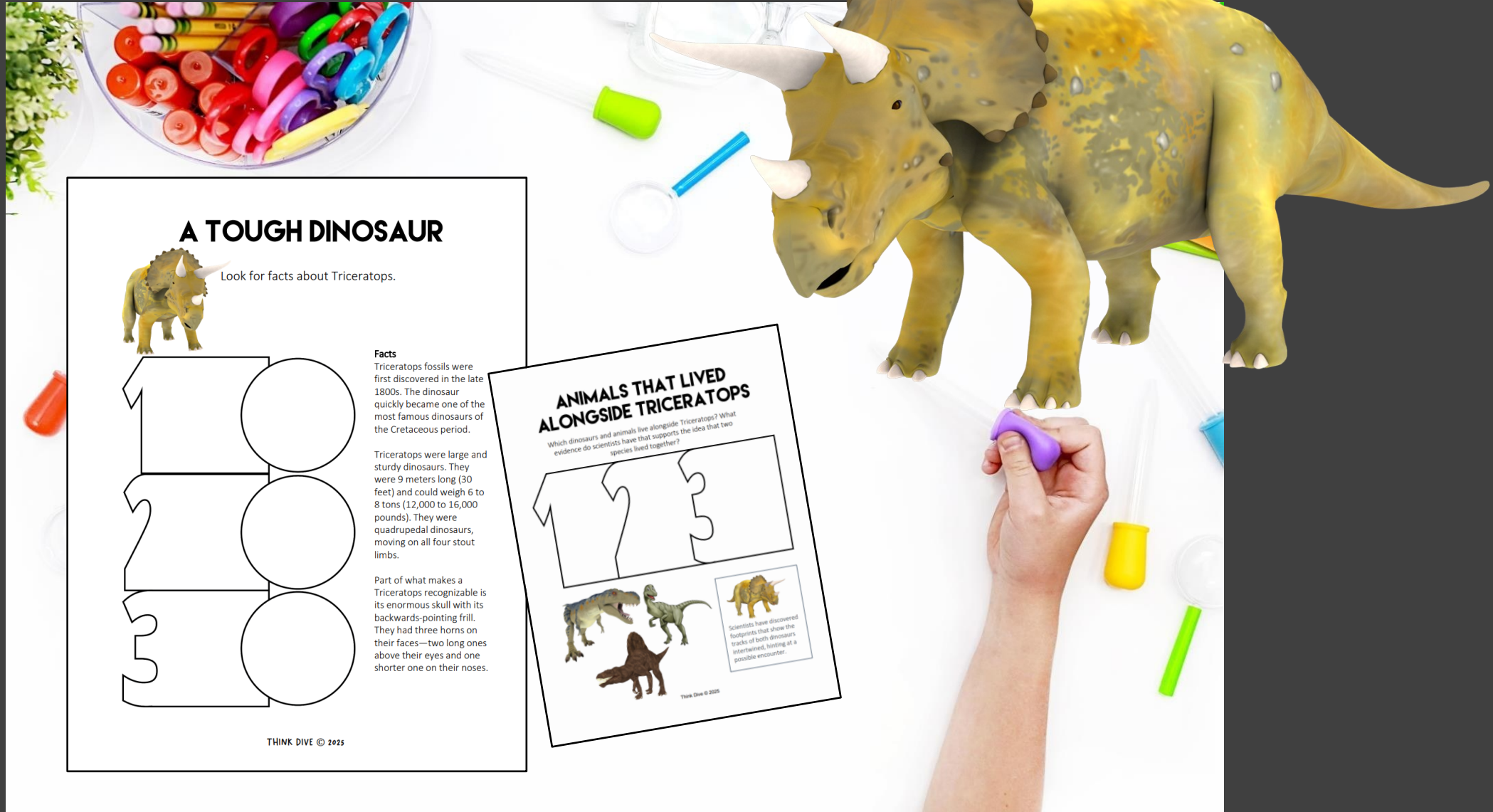


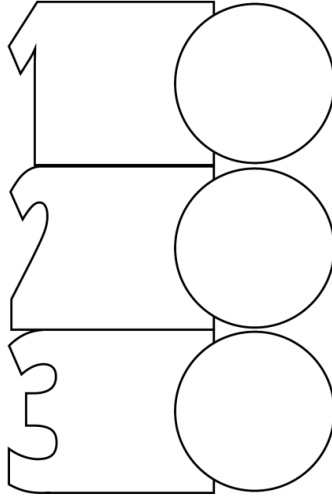
TRICERATOPS



A TOUGH DINOSAUR



Look for facts about Triceratops.



Facts

Triceratops fossils were first discovered in the late 1800s. The dinosaur quickly became one of the most famous dinosaurs of the Cretaceous period.

Triceratops were large and sturdy dinosaurs. They were 9 meters long (30 feet) and could weigh 6 to 8 tons (12,000 to 16,000 pounds). They were quadrupedal dinosaurs, moving on all four stout limbs.

Part of what makes a Triceratops recognizable is its enormous skull with its backwards-pointing frill. They had three horns on their faces—two long ones above their eyes and one shorter one on their noses.

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ANIMALS THAT LIVED ALONGSIDE TRICERATOPS

Which dinosaurs and animals live alongside Triceratops? What evidence do scientists have that supports the idea that two species lived together?



Scientists have discovered footprints that show the tracks of both dinosaurs intertwined, hinting at a possible encounter.

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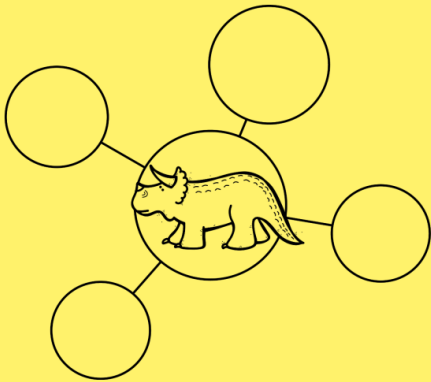
Engaging & Challenging

TRICERATOPS

Activities

THE END OF TRICERATOPS

Triceratops lived in the late Cretaceous period, around 66 million years ago. Some scientists have suggested that Triceratops became extinct before the big mass extinction of dinosaurs. Look for possible things that could have contributed to the extinction of Triceratops other than the Chicxulub impactor, a plummeting asteroid or comet, which is widely accepted as the primary cause of the mass extinction. Some evidence suggests Triceratops may have already been experiencing population decline before the impact, for example, increased competition for food sources, such as plants.



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WHO WOULD WIN?

Write an argumentative text that supports or does not support the idea that Triceratops would win over Tyrannosaurus Rex.



A large rectangular box with a decorative border, containing several horizontal lines for writing an argumentative text.



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HOW TO FIND FOOD

How do scientists know that triceratops fed on shrubs and plants like ferns, palms and cycads? What kind of plants would be easy for a triceratops to reach?

How could it reach bigger plants and trees?



A vertical bar with five horizontal lines extending from its right side, each ending in a circle, providing a space for drawing or writing about different types of plants.

Facts

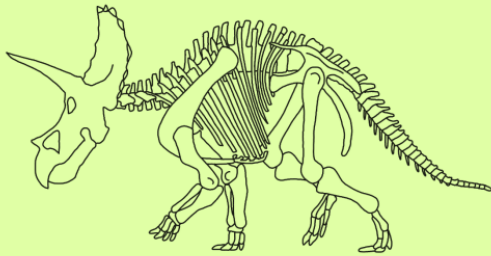
Triceratops' beak-like mouth and shearing teeth would have been well-suited for cropping and chewing thorny vegetation. Triceratops were squat and tank-like so that they would have eaten leaves from low-hanging plants and bushes. They could have used their sturdy bodies and horns to knock down taller trees.

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Great to Use for

BEAKS, HORNS AND FRILLS!

Describe unique and interesting features.



Facts

Triceratops is Greek for "three-horned face," but this dinosaur had only two genuine horns.

The Triceratops' horns were likely used to defend against predators and may have also played a role in social interactions. Did the horn grow back? It depends on how much the dinosaur broke. If the core snapped, it could not grow back. If the ends, which were made from keratin, snapped, they could grow back, just like our nails.

The frill may have served as a shield that protected the neck from attacks. It could have been used to display its size and shape, showing its health and strength. The frill might also have helped control their body temperature.

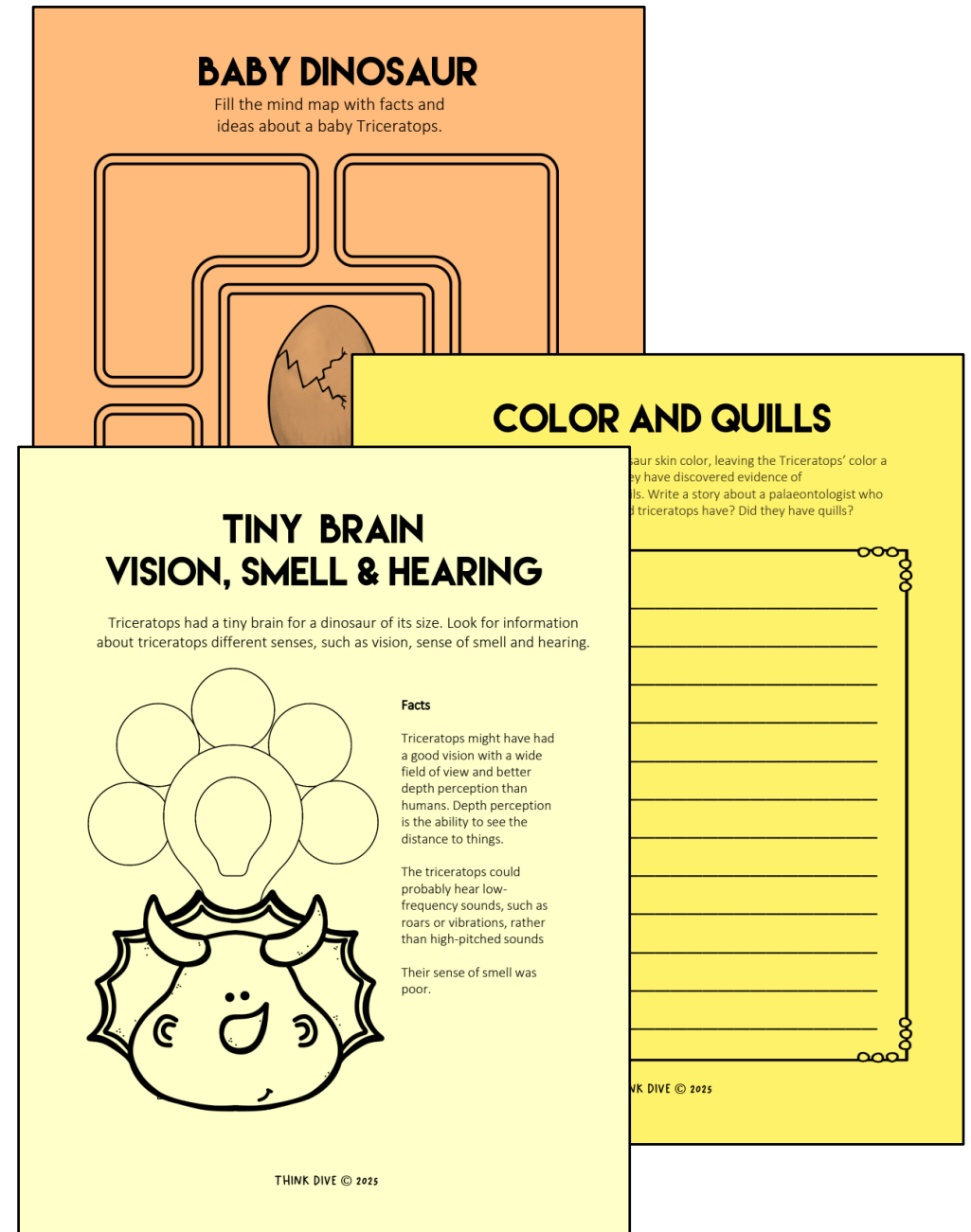
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- ❖ Dinosaur projects
- ❖ Prehistory Units

Review – Math Journal Prompts

“A wonderful set of problems to get students thinking; and I love the extra challenge provided by showing their work to explain how they arrived at the solution. Thank you for the great prompts!”

“I sent this booklet home for parents to help one of my students. It was easy to put it together. Thank you!”



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