

Factsheet 21 – How do we know about dinosaurs?

Quirky fact :

All up the tracks of 150 individual dinosaurs were mapped at Dinosaur Stampede National Monument.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE098
7	Science	ACSSUII, ACSHEIII9
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSUI53, ACSHEI34

Background Information

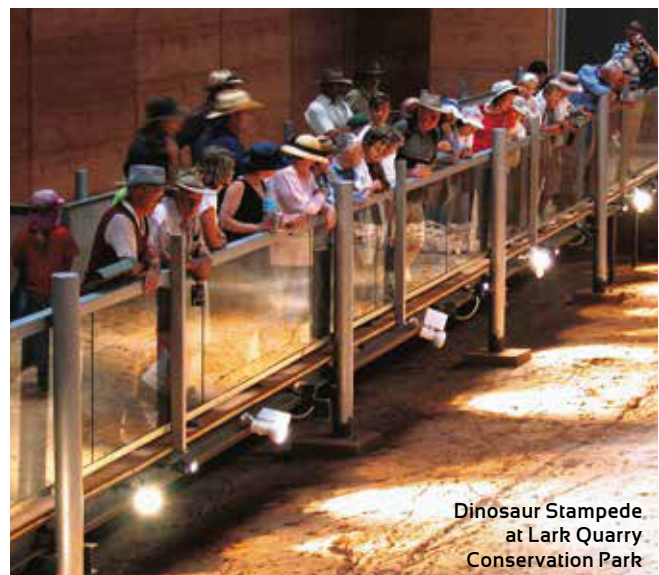
Visit the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park; over three thousand dinosaur tracks mark the site of the only known dinosaur stampede on the Planet. In a remarkable piece of scientific detective work, scientists from the Queensland Museum have pieced together a dramatic tale of hunter and hunted from the footprints left behind.

About 95 million years ago, Western Queensland looked quite different. Rainfall was more than a metre per year, and conifers and ferns were abundant in a flat landscape of creeks and rivers meandering to an inland sea. Back then, a group of perhaps several hundred dinosaurs, some as small as chickens (called Coelurosaurs) and some about the size of an emu (called Ornithopods) were grazing at the side of a creek. They suddenly panicked when a five metre-long meat-eating dinosaur appeared. Their footprints scramble away from the big predator in a mad dash to escape! The footprints of the predator have recently been shown to match Banjo, a megaraptor with huge clawed hands (don't miss the original bones of Banjo on display at Australian Age of Dinosaurs). The tracks documenting this dramatic scene lay undisturbed and pristine until the early 1960s when Glen Seymour, manager of a nearby grazing station, spotted something unusual. Queensland Museum officers and volunteers returned in 1976–1977 to excavate the site and named it Lark Quarry after Malcolm Lark, first of the volunteers, who apparently removed more rock than anyone else!

Now housed inside an expansive modern building 110km southwest of Winton, this amazing window into our dinosaur past is on display year round for everyone to see. The starkly beautiful red earth and spinifex-studded landscape is a dramatic contrast to the moist green world that existed at the time of the dinosaurs! Access to the Stampede is by guided tour and specially trained on-site guides start tours from 9.00am for group bookings daily except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park



Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	How do fossils tell us about what this environment was like in the past?
	7/8	What processes formed this landscape? How do scientists learn from the fossils they find here?
Geography	8	Why does this landscape contain fossils?

Points of Interest

► Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, via Winton

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, in Outback Queensland, is currently the only recorded dinosaur stampede on earth. In this place, around 95 million years ago, a large herd of small two-legged dinosaurs gathered on the banks of a forest lake to drink.

Lark Quarry Conservation Park, Jundah Road, via Winton QLD 4735

Cost: Entry fee applies

Hours: Fully guided tours are available and the Dinosaur Stampede is opened daily excluding Christmas and Boxing Day

Phone: 1300 665 115 or (07) 4657 1466

Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au

Website: www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

► Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton

The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum focuses on Australia's evolutionary history, in particular the discovery, conservation and research of Australia's dinosaurs. It's a working museum, education resource, research facility, and tourist attraction that is responsible for the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils. It is also the most productive fossil preparation laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere where visitors can work on real 95 million year old dinosaur bone fossils found in the Winton area.

► Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden

www.flinders.qld.gov.au

► Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond

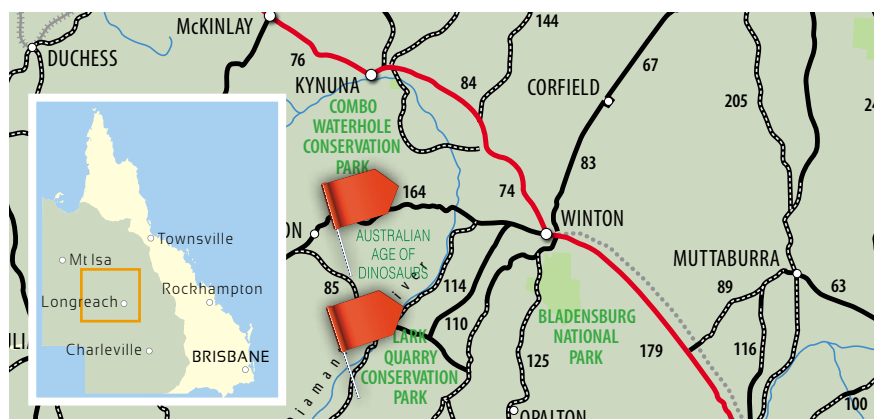
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au

► Riversleigh Fossil Fields at Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park

www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx

► Outback Gondwana Foundation, Eromanga

www.ogf.org.au/



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton

PO Box 408, Winton QLD 4735
Phone: (07) 4657 0078
Email: info@aad.com
www.australianageofdinosaurs.com

University of Queensland Palaeontology Department

Steve Salisbury's Vertebrate Palaeontology & Biomechanics Lab
www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs

Queensland Museum

Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au

Australian Museum

www.australianmuseum.net.au/Australian-theropod-dinosaurs/

ABC

www.abc.net.au/dinosaurs/meet_the_dinos

Dinosaur encyclopedia

www.isgs.illinois.edu/education/earthsci/paleo.shtml
www.search4dinosaurs.com/

Australian Dinosaur Story

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Email: heritage@environment.gov.au
www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/dinosaur-stampede/lark-quarry/lark-quarry.html

Australian Museum

Research Library enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6000
Scientific enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6202
www.lostkingdoms.com/facts/index.cfm#cretaceous

Earth Science Australia

www.earthsci.org/index.html

REFERENCES

Encyclopedia of dinosaurs San Diego: Academic Press, 1997

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

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www.experiencewinton.com.au