

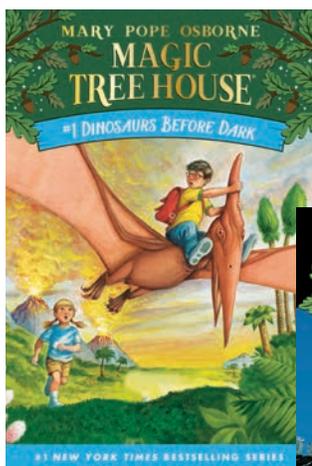


Dinosaurs Before Dark and ***Dinosaurs: A Nonfiction Companion to Dinosaurs Before Dark***

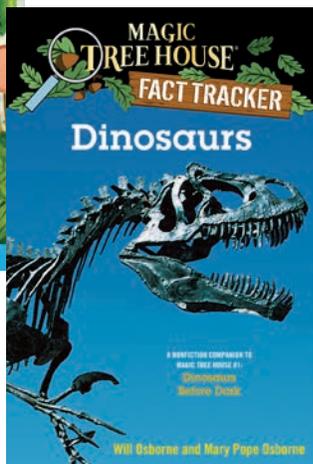
ABOUT *Dinosaurs Before Dark*

“With an entertaining blend of fact, farce, and fantasy, Osborne tells the story of Jack and his sister, Annie, who take a trip in a magic tree house and land in a time 65 million years ago. They find dinosaurs and volcanoes and adventure. Veteran storyteller Osborne builds the power of reading into the story: it’s the books in the tree house that give the kids the magic to travel and see far, far away.”

—Booklist



PB: 978-0-679-82411-4
EL: 978-0-375-89418-3
Grades: 1–4
F&P: M • Lexile: 240L



PB: 978-0-375-80296-6
EL: 978-0-307-97508-9
Grades: 2–5
F&P: Q • Lexile: 690L

ABOUT *Dinosaurs:*

A Nonfiction Companion to Dinosaurs Before Dark

Who invented the word dinosaur? What was the name of the biggest dinosaur? In *Dinosaurs: A Nonfiction Companion to Dinosaurs Before Dark*, Jack and Annie explain everything you ever wanted to know about the real-life world of dinosaurs.

ACTIVITIES FOR *Dinosaurs Before Dark*

The Land Before Time

When Jack and Annie are whisked off to the time of the dinosaurs, they find themselves in the Cretaceous Period, the last part of the Mesozoic Era, whose ending is marked by the great extinction of the dinosaur population 65 million years ago. Details provided in the story help to paint a picture of this post-Jurassic period, which, for 80 million years, provided a nourishing environment for its many reptilian inhabitants.

Activities for *Dinosaurs:*

A Nonfiction Companion to Dinosaurs Before Dark

Be a Fact Finder!

Jack and Annie collect many facts during their research. To make the information easy to find, they created an index—an alphabetical list in the back of the book. Using the index, find 10 dinosaurs and list a fascinating fact about each one, including the page number where the fact was found. Then, create a chart to record the information.

Who's My Kin?

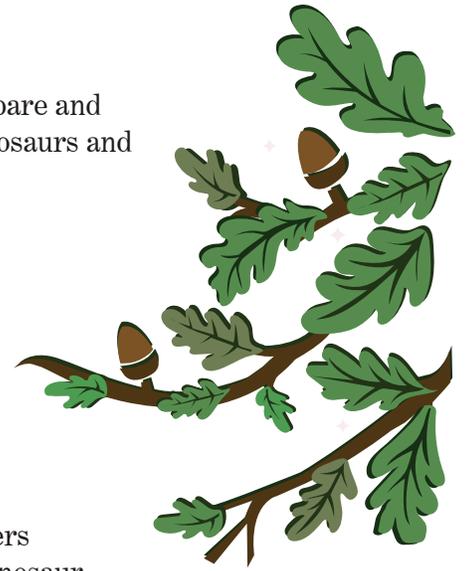
Generate a list of the characteristics of reptiles and of dinosaurs. Then compare and contrast present day reptiles, such as snakes, turtles, and lizards, to the dinosaurs and illustrate the differences.

Can You Dig It?

Paleontologists are scientists who study dinosaur fossils. Discuss how these scientists locate fossils, and describe the tools necessary for excavation. Place items in a tray and cover them with sand. Use string to construct a grid to divide the areas to be studied. Readers can record their findings in a notebook similar to Jack and Annie's.

What's in a Name?

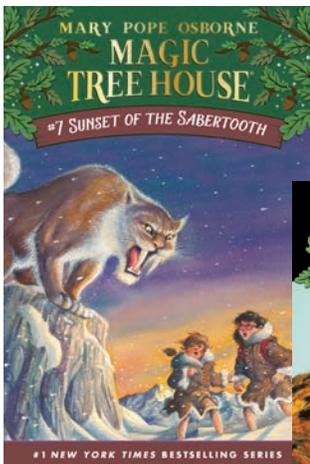
Jack and Annie learn that dinosaurs are named in various ways. Have readers create their own "Sillyaurus" (p. 33) dinosaurs by using different parts of dinosaur names. Readers can to name their dinosaurs and write about what they eat and how to care for them.



Teaching materials provided by Jamay Johnson, second grade teacher; Melinda Murphy, media specialist, Reed Elementary School, Cypress Fairbranks Independent School District, Houston, Texas; and Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children's literature at City University of New York, and educational and editorial consultant to publishers of children's books.



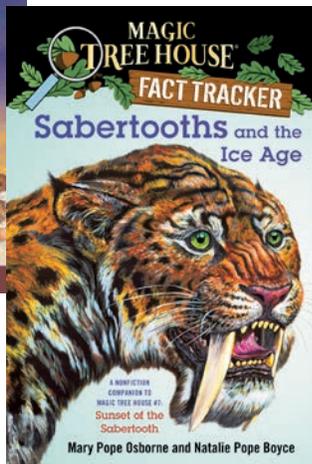
***Sunset of the Sabertooth* and
Sabertooths and the Ice Age:
A Nonfiction Companion to *Sunset of the Sabertooth***



PB: 978-0-679-86373-1
EL: 978-0-375-89424-4
Grades: 1-4
F&P: M • Lexile: 350L

ABOUT *Sunset of the Sabertooth*

Jack and Annie are whisked all the way back to the Ice Age in this compelling Magic Tree House time-travel adventure where they meet woolly mammoths, cave people . . . and fierce sabertooth tigers!



PB: 978-0-375-82380-0
EL: 978-0-307-97530-0
Grades: 2-5
F&P: S • Lexile: 590L

**ABOUT *Sabertooth and the Ice Age:*
A Nonfiction Companion to *Sunset of the Sabertooth***

What was it like to live in the Ice Age and why was the world so cold? Who made the first cave paintings? What ever happened to sabertooth cats and woolly mammoths? Find out the answers to these questions and more in Jack and Annie's guide to unlocking the mysteries of the Ice Age!

ACTIVITIES FOR *Sunset of the Sabertooth*

Viva the Evolution!

Upon entering the cave home of Cro-Magnon Man 25,000 years ago, Jack and Annie see first hand how these ancestors, from whom many believe we have descended, distinguished themselves from earlier Neanderthal Man who became extinct.

Identify the differences between the Cretaceous Period of the Mesozoic Era and the Ice Age of the Pleistocene Era in terms of time, climate, vegetation, human, and animal inhabitants.

Based on Jack's note-taking techniques, write an "Eyewitness Report" that provides factual information on Cro-Magnon Man, as hunter, toolmaker, artist, and music maker as well as on the animals that lived during the Ice Age.

ACTIVITIES FOR *Sabertooths and the Ice Age:* ***A Nonfiction Companion to *Sunset of the Sabertooth****

Future Fossil Facts

Fossils provide researchers with information about the past. Several Internet sites offer information about fossils and the facts they provide.

Make modern fossils. Select objects that represent something about modern life—a state quarter, a pen, a key, or any object that reflects modern culture in some way. Pour plaster of paris into paper muffin cups, filling the cup about halfway. When the plaster of paris begins to harden, press the object into the top. After the “fossils” are hardened, put them in a fossil bed, a container large enough to hold all of the fossils.

Inspect each fossil as a researcher from the future. Write a description for the fossil that could appear in a museum, indicating what the fossil is, and how it was used.

Icy Ancestors

Identify a modern day descendent of one of the animals of the Ice Age. Then, make a reversible stick puppet that shows the Ice Age animal on one side and the modern day animal on the other. Use a wooden paint stirrer or a large tongue depressor for the stick and glue the pictures on either side.

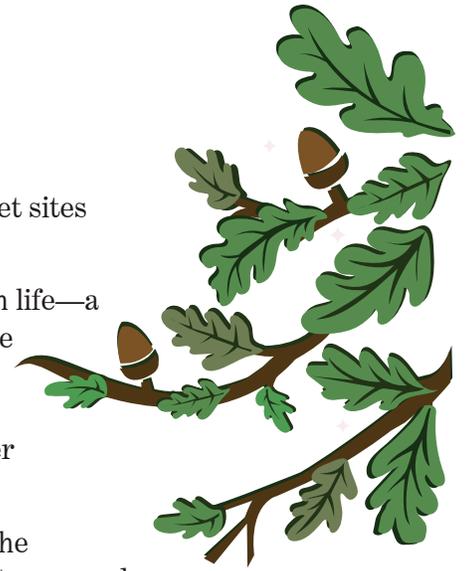
Ivory Carvings—The Legal Kind

During the Ice Age people made carvings from ivory. Although ivory carvings are no longer legal, it is legal to make carvings from Ivory soap! Carve an Ice Age animal from a bar of soap using a plastic knife. The first step is to make an outline drawing of the animal on thin paper. Next, pin the drawing to a bar of soap. Finally, using the knife, carve around the drawing to create the animal.

Cave Dwellers

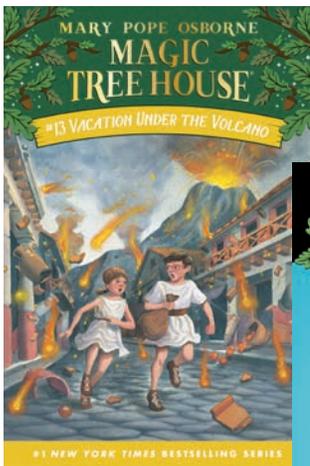
There is an extensive description of the cave that Jack and Annie enter in their adventure in *Sunset of the Sabertooth*. Identify well-known caves and identify the unique features of this unusual environment. Compare the caves that people can visit today with those visited by Jack and Annie.

Teaching materials provided by Dr. Peggy A. Sharp, a national children’s literature consultant, and Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children’s literature at City University of New York.





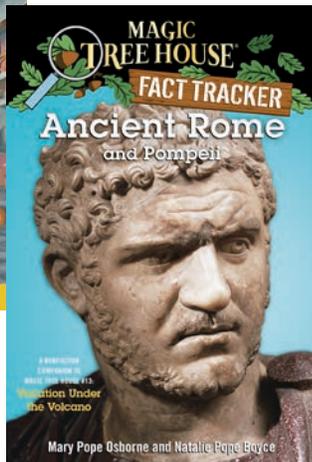
Vacation Under the Volcano and
Ancient Rome and Pompeii:
A Nonfiction Companion to Vacation Under the Volcano



PB: 978-0-679-89050-8
EL: 978-0-375-89470-1
Grades: 1-4
F&P: M • Lexile: 410L

ABOUT *Vacation Under the Volcano*

Jack and Annie go to the city of Pompeii to bring back an ancient story that is in danger of being lost forever. Little do they know they are saving the myth of Hercules! But before they can find it, the town's volcano erupts in a mighty explosion. Just when things look hopeless, Jack and Annie get some unexpected help from a certain mythic hero-and the rest, as they say, is history.



PB: 978-0-375-83220-8
EL: 978-0-307-97532-4
Grades: 2-5
F&P: S • Lexile: 750L

ABOUT *Ancient Rome and Pompeii:*
A Nonfiction Companion to Vacation Under the Volcano

What was it like to be a gladiator? How many people died in the destruction of Pompeii? How did Roman children spend their days? Find out the answers to these questions and more in this Fact Tracker.

ACTIVITIES FOR *Vacation Under the Volcano*

Make a Volcano

Jack and Annie are fortunate to escape with their lives when Mt. Vesuvius erupts. Ask readers to locate Mt. Vesuvius and other volcanoes such as Mt. Fujiyama and Mt. St. Etna on the map. Note dates on which these volcanoes erupted and the consequences that followed. Then, with a few simple materials, readers can make an “active volcano” of their own.

Place a well-washed gallon milk container in the middle of a flat surface covered with plastic or newspaper. Dump ½ a large bag of potting soil around the container. Begin shaping the volcano by adding small amounts of water to the soil. Keep adding soil as needed to cover the container up to the neck where the lid will eventually be screwed on.

Pour 1 cup of concentrated dishwashing liquid, 1½ cups of water, 1 full bottle of red food coloring and three-quarters box baking soda. Screw the lid onto the container. Not too tightly!

After a few minutes, unscrew lid and pour in ¾ large bottle of vinegar, and then stand back!

ACTIVITIES FOR *Ancient Rome and Pompeii*: ***A Nonfiction Companion to Vacation Under the Volcano***

Agree to Disagree

In the Roman Republic, the people elected two consuls who had to agree on everything. Have readers make a list of topics on which there can be agreement and disagreement, such as favorite foods, books, television shows, or sports. Discuss the difficulty of coming to an agreement, and how this might make it difficult to govern.

Have readers make posters, flyers, or write a short speech that could persuade others to agree with their opinion on a topic they are passionate about.

Roman Hall of Fame/Roman Hall of Shame

As with any group, there were famous Romans, some for the good they did and some for their evil deeds. Have readers “become” one of the Roman gods, goddesses, or human beings and give a biographical talk including their name, special achievements, how their acts helped or hurt others, and how they should be remembered.

Can You Dig It?

Much of the information about Pompeii comes from archeological digs. Set up a simulated dig featuring modern-day artifacts. Collect small items and parts of items that represent activities—e.g., a section of a pencil, a small eraser, a paperclip, a part of a crayon, a marker top, etc. Fill a large box with dirt and place the objects at various depths and areas/spaces within the dirt. Then sift through the dirt using spoons, flour sifters, etc. to find the objects in the dirt. Remind them to be very careful about what they find, so as not to destroy the item. They then write a description for each of the items found for a museum display of artifacts. If you set up several digs, collect materials from other sites (kitchen, playground, etc.), and challenge readers to identify the site and what happens at that location.

Teaching ideas by Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children’s literature at City University of New York, and Dr. Peggy A. Sharp, a national children’s literature consultant.

