

Jackie French & Bruce Whatley
Concept by Ben Smith Whatley

Dippy and the Dinosaurs

Author: Jackie French

Illustrator:
Bruce Whatley

Publisher: Harper Collins

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Synopsis

An 'Ice Age' meets Diary of a Wombat story Dippy the diprotodon is the BIGGEST and friendliest wombat who lived 100,000 years ago. Dippy has dug a new hole. A BIG hole, which leads him to a strange new world - and even stranger new friends. But do these giant creatures really just want to play? Based on a concept by Ben Smith Whatley and brought to life by the creators of the internationally bestselling Diary of a Wombat, this is an hilarious story of prehistoric daring and chaos set in the fascinating world of ancient Australian megafauna.

Author Bio

Jackie French AM is an award-winning writer, wombat negotiator, the 2014–2015 Australian Children's Laureate and the 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. In 2016 Jackie became a Member of the Order of Australia for her contribution to children's literature and her advocacy for youth literacy. She is regarded as one of Australia's most popular children's authors and writes across all genres – from picture books, history, fantasy, ecology and sci-fi to her much loved historical fiction for a variety of age groups. 'Share a Story' was the primary philosophy behind Jackie's two-year term as Laureate.

<http://www.jackiefrench.com/>



Illustrator Bio

Bruce Whatley is one of Australia's most highly regarded and talented authors and illustrators for children, both here and internationally. Since 1992 Bruce has written and/or illustrated over 90 picture books. In 2002 he paired with author Jackie French and illustrated Diary of a Wombat, which was the start of an extraordinary creative collaboration.

www.brucewhatley.com

Curriculum Links

English - Foundation

- ACELA1430 - Understand that texts can take many forms, can be very short (for example an exit sign) or quite long (for example an information book or a film) and that stories and informative texts have different purposes
- ACELT1575 - Recognise texts are created by authors.
- ACELT1577 - Respond to texts, identifying favourite stories, authors and illustrators
- ACELY1646 - Listen to and respond orally to texts and to the communication of others in informal and structured classroom situations
- ACELT1783 - Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts

English - Year 1

- ACELA1453 - Compare different kinds of images in narrative and informative texts and discuss how they contribute to meaning.
- ACELA1447 - Understand that the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways

English - Year 2

- ACELA1463 - Understand that different types of texts have identifiable text structures and language features that help the text serve its purpose
- ACELY1665 - Discuss different texts on a similar topic, identifying similarities and differences between the texts

Science Foundation - Inquiry Skills

- ACSIS011 - Participate in guided investigation based on senses (sight)
- ACSIS012 - Share observations and ideas
- ACSIS233 - Engage in discussions about observations and represent ideas

Themes

- Australian Megafauna
- Australian Animals
- Dinosaurs
- Friendship
- Curiosity
- Adventure

Prediction & Comprehension

Show the cover of *Dippy and the Dinosaurs* to your students, reading the name of the book out loud, identifying the author and illustrator, and ask the following:

- What can you see on the cover?
- Can you identify what these creatures are?
- What clue do these creatures give us to what the story might be about?
- Now turn the cover over and show the back of the book to your students, reading out loud what the book will be about.

Read the book without stopping, and then re-read and go back to look at all of the dinosaurs Dippy meets.

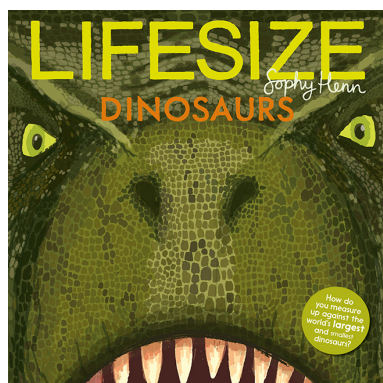
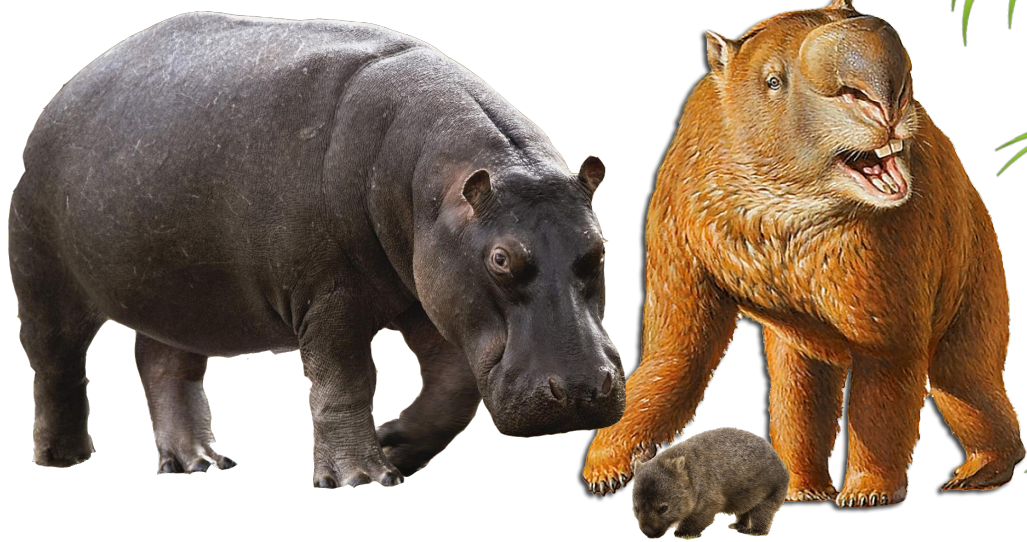
Firstly, ask if they know what kind of animal Dippy is? What does he remind you of?

- Dippy is a diprotodon, and ancient ancestor of the wombat.
- They were about 3.80m long and 1.7 m wide and weighed 2800kg.
- To get an understanding of the size, compare a diprotodon to a modern wombat (100cm x 60cm and about 26kg) and then to other large animals like a rhinoceros or hippopotamus.

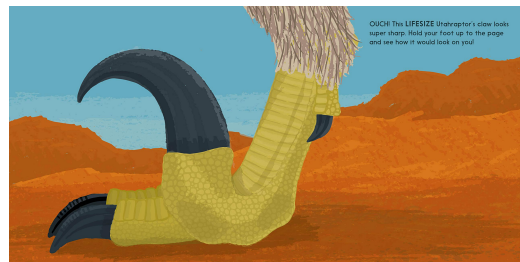


See a size comparison on the next page →

Teacher's Notes



To get an understanding of the size of other dinosaurs, look at a book like: **LIFESIZE DINOSAURS**

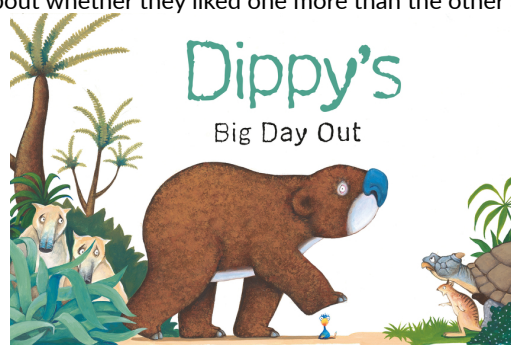


Make a list of the dinosaurs that they can identify from the story.

- Which ones are harder to identify?
- Have a selection of dinosaur books on hand, split the class into groups, with a selection of books for each group to look at.
- Then see if they can find the unidentified dinosaurs in their books, just using the pictures, based on what they look like.
- Ask each group to share their findings.

This is the second book about Dippy.

- Have the first book, DIPPY'S BIG DAY OUT to read to the class as well
- Talk about whether they liked one more than the other and why?



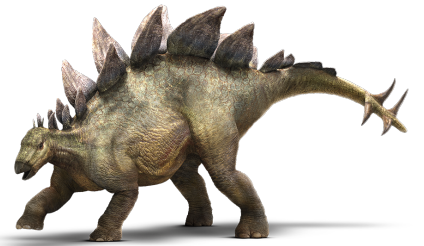
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Match the Dinosaur



Draw a line between the
picture of the dinosaur and the
name of the dinosaur

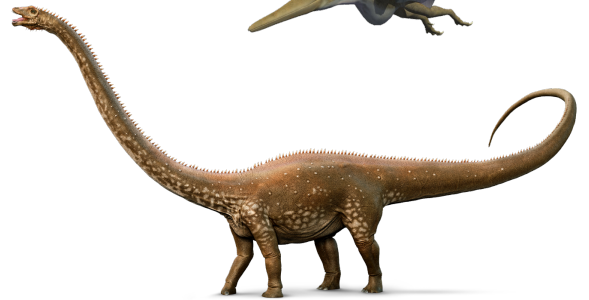
Tyrannosaurus
(tie-RAN-oh-SORE-us)



Triceratops
(try-SERRA-tops)



Stegosaurus
(STEG-oh-SORE-us)



Diplodocus
(dip-LOD-oh-kus)



Pteranodon
(teh-RAN-oh-don)

