



# Dinosaurs Today?

By: Lori McDonald  
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Pop Culture  
Grades K-2



## Introduction

In this lesson, we will capitalize on the popularity and pop culture phenomenon of dinosaur movies such as *Jurassic Park*. Students will participate in discussion and then will write an opinion piece on the topic of reviving extinct species.

## Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1](#)

- Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about
- State an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons
- Provide a concluding statement or section

## Materials Needed

- Clips from *Jurassic Park* (or any movies from that franchise)
- [Copies of graphic organizer](#)
- Copies of rubric

## Procedure

**Warm-up** – Show students a few clips from any of the *Jurassic Park* movies. Make sure you have carefully selected short clips that demonstrate the purpose of the movie without including any explicit language, violence, or gore.

1. Discuss the clips from the movie and talk about how the scientists in the movie found a way to bring back multiple dinosaur species. It is important, however, that you make sure students understand that this is fiction and could not happen in real life.
2. Show students some other species of animals that are extinct and discuss.
3. Have students complete the graphic organizer based on this question: Is bringing back an extinct species a good idea?
  - Choose a side: Scientists should try to bring back extinct species or Scientists should not try to bring back extinct species.

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4. After students complete the graphic organizer, they should be given time to work on their writing assignment.

## Evaluation

Have students use the rubric below to evaluate their own writing and/or their writing partner's writing. After they have used the rubric to improve their writing, use the same rubric to grade the assignment.

Categories	4	3	2	1
<b>Sentences</b>	6 or more complete sentences included.	4 or 5 complete sentences included.	2 or 3 complete sentences included.	1 complete sentence included.
<b>Punctuation</b>	All sentences end with correct punctuation.	Most sentences end with correct punctuation.	Some sentences end with correct punctuation.	Little or no sentences end with correct punctuation.
<b>Capitalization</b>	All sentences begin with a capital letter.	Most sentences begin with a capital letter.	Some sentences begin with a capital letter.	Little or no sentences begin with a capital letter.
<b>Neatness</b>	All words are neat and clearly written.	Most words are clearly written.	Some words are clearly written.	Illegible
<b>Topic</b>	All sentences are on-topic.	Most sentences are on-topic.	Some sentences are on-topic.	Little or no sentences are on-topic.

Total: 20/20 possible