

# Fossils and Dinosaurs

## Plant Eaters

Surprisingly, many dinosaurs were peaceful plant eaters. They were called Ornithischians (pronounced Or-ne-this-kee-ans). Most of the largest dinosaurs like the Stegosaurus and the Ankylosaurus were plant eaters.

Stegosaurus was an enormous dinosaur that walked on four feet. It had large plates along its back. Some scientists believe these plates acted as armor to protect it from large meat-eating dinosaurs. Its head drooped to the ground because its hind legs were longer than its front legs. Stegosaurus was built like this to make eating foliage<sup>1</sup> easier. Some measured 30 feet long! It was huge, and although it looked fierce, it was very peaceful. Stegosaurus ate plants, not other animals.

<sup>1</sup> foliage: the leaves of plants

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## Sample – Third Grade Level Writing

# The Hammerhead Shark

The whale shark and the hammerhead shark have many similarities. The whale and hammerhead sharks both live in the ocean. They both are very unique. They both get very curious. And lastly they both eat living things under water. Here are some facts about the hammerhead shark.

The hammerhead shark has eyes and nostrils at the tip of the "hammer." It can see in a full circle. It eats squid, fish and other sharks. It grows up to 3 or 4 meters long. It hunts at night by itself. This type of shark gets frightened by human's bubbles when they jump into the water.

I chose the hammerhead shark to study because they are fascinating. Their eyes see in a full circle. Also, their body is blue with a hint of green. Even more interesting, their body is shaped as a hammer. But most of all, it eats stingray and uses its "hammer." As a weapon!

*Annotated Student Work. Grade 3 Literacy.*



## About the Common Core Reading and Writing Standards

The Common Core has established new sets of standards for reading and writing at each grade level. There are two types of reading identified – Literature and Reading for Information. Each of these has ten standards divided into four categories. These four categories are

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Plus, there is a set of standards for Foundational Reading Skills directed toward helping students understand the basics of the alphabet, and reading and writing in English.

There are also ten standards for writing which are broken into the four categories of Text Types and Purpose, Production and Distribution of Writing, Research to Build and Present Knowledge and Range of Writing.

Students are expected to meet the standards for their grade, as well as retain and build on skills developed in previous grades.

Find more details, including grade specific standards, and samples at – <http://goo.gl/hB0irX>

Or visit the Common Core website – <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>