

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 4

Focus: Looking at a model of a triceratops, comment on its living environment, food sources, means of protection, and reasons for eventual extinction.

Resources: Plastic triceratops model.

Questions/instructions:

Here is a model of a dinosaur. Scientists call this dinosaur a triceratops.



These animals lived on Earth a very long time ago. You can pick the model up and have a good look at it while I ask you some questions.

Give student model of dinosaur.

1. Think about the place where the triceratops lived. How might the place where they lived a long time ago be different from what it is like now?
Prompt: Is there anything else you can tell me? **not marked**

2. How do you think the triceratops got its food? *Prompt: Anything else?*

eating plants 53

% responses

y4

3. All animals have to protect themselves in the environments where they live. What would the triceratops need to protect itself from? *Prompt: Anything else?*

carnivorous predators 78

other suitable response (eg. disease, starvation, dehydration) 2

4. How do you think the triceratops protected itself? *Prompt: Anything else?*

horns 91

charging, using its weight 23

other valid response (eg. strong tail) 63

5. There are no longer any triceratops living on Earth. What do you think happened to them? *Prompt: What caused them to die out or become extinct?*

sudden change of climate or habitat; or crash of space object 42

% responses

y4

Commentary:

About half of the year 4 students know that triceratops were plant eaters. High proportions identified major predators and means of protection, but fewer could explain reasons for their extinction.