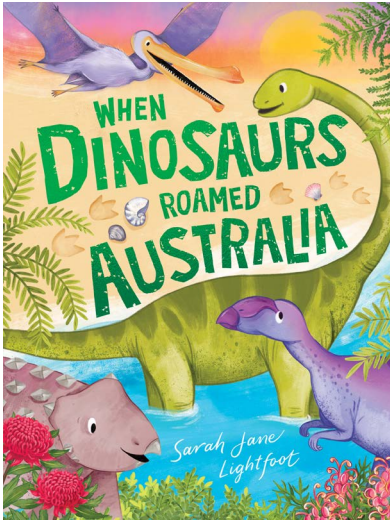




Teacher Notes

When Dinosaurs Roamed Australia

by Sarah Jane Lightfoot

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
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Reader ages: 2-6 years

Themes

- History
- Survival
- Dinosaurs
- Environment

About the Book

*Millions of years before you and me,
living in wetlands and by the sea,
lurking in lakes and green forest floors,
Australia was home to DINOSAURS!*

Journey back in time to the Cretaceous period and meet the dinosaurs that roamed Australia millions of years ago.

About the Author-Illustrator

Sarah Jane Lightfoot is the bestselling author-illustrator of *Down the Road*, *Little Bee* and is an experienced textile graphic designer. She is also a freelance illustrator and workshop instructor, facilitating workshops for the NGV, Work-Shop Melbourne and Creative Space. Sarah Jane specialises in watercolour and botanical illustrations and lives in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Before Reading

- What do you already know about dinosaurs? Did you know that there were dinosaurs in Australia?
- The book is called *When Dinosaurs Roamed Australia* – how long ago do you think it's set?
- What else do you know about Australia's history?

Comprehension questions

- How many years ago did dinosaurs roam Australia? What is this time known as?
- What types of places did the dinosaurs live?
- Make a list of the foods the dinosaurs in the book ate.
- Where did the aquatic reptiles search for fish?
- Who wades in shallow lakes?
- What do the forest dwellers hide behind?
- How do we know that dinosaurs lived in Australia?
- What are some of the physical features that the dinosaurs in the book might have used to protect themselves.
- What was Australia called when the dinosaurs roamed? How was it different to the Australia we know now?

Literacy

- What are **scientific names**? Where do they come from? Identify three scientific names in the book. What's the difference between a scientific name and a common name?
- **Tense**: Even though the book is set in the past, it uses present tense. Discuss the three tenses that storytellers can use (present, past, future). How do you know which tense is being used in a story? In this story, present tense makes you feel as if it's unfolding in front of you. Rewrite a page from the book in past tense.
- The writer of the book uses **adjectives** to describe the dinosaurs that used to roam Australia. An adjective is a describing word (like 'big' or 'bumpy'). What other adjectives can you find in the book? Can you come up with your own adjective to describe one of the dinosaurs in the book?

Final reflections

- What happened to the dinosaurs?
- A fossil is one type of evidence that tells us dinosaurs roamed Australia. What other kinds of evidence do we have about things that happened in the past? What evidence do you think people in millions of years will use to learn about our lives?
- What's the difference between a fiction book and a non-fiction book? What kind of book is this? How do you know?

Creative Activities

- Even though dinosaurs really did roam Australia, there's still so much we don't know about them. Research dinosaurs using books from the library, the internet or your local museum. Choose one and draw a picture of it in its natural habitat. Write one fact to accompany your illustration.
- Imagine you are one of the dinosaurs in the book and write a short diary entry that describes a regular day in your life. What do you do? Where do you go? How do you feel?
- Australia was pretty different when dinosaurs roamed! Make a list of some of the differences between Australia then and Australia now. Imagine a dinosaur appeared in your school! Create a 10-panel comic strip that tells the story of a dinosaur showing up in your playground.
- What is a habitat? How would you describe the dinosaurs habitat in the book? Draw a picture of your local habitat – what other creatures share your habitat? What does your habitat give you that you need to survive?