

3.b.

ENGLISH ACTIVITY: Dinner in the Iguanodon - Journalism

TIME NEEDED: 40 minutes

AGE: Year 6

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge: Victorian journalism, Crystal Palace Dinosaurs, Victorian history

Skills: Journalistic writing

MATERIALS: Sketching pencils, plain paper, pens



INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS:

Life was good in 1851 London; the Great Exhibition had been a monumental success and British industrial business was booming. The giant glass structures that had been used for the huge gallery were moved from Hyde Park to Crystal Palace to be made into a 'Garden under Glass'. Down the hill, complementing the palace, the first ever Dinosaur Theme Park came into existence in 1853. It contained sculptures of many extinct creatures, including Irish elk and a giant sloth. The dinosaurs themselves were based on the ideas scientists had at the time. In the previous 30 years people such as Mary Anning had been finding fossils in Oxfordshire, Sussex and Dorset. These provided some evidence for the artists, but much of the beasts' anatomies had to be imagined. In celebration of the new Dinosaur Park a New Year's Eve dinner was held in the concrete mould of an iguanodon....

Find out more [here](#). Listen to a narrated story [here](#).

Image below ([link here](#)): London Illustrated News, January 7th 1854.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN:

- Find out about the famous dinner inside a concrete iguanodon in Crystal Palace in 1853 [here](#). Look at the pictures, the story behind the iguanodon, the menu, guest list and invitations.
- Using the facts you have learnt, build your own story about what happened at the dinner. In as few words as you can, write a report for the London Illustrated News. It has to be exciting, and succinct.
- Make a picture to go with your story. Consider what illustration tools reporters had in those days and make your image ready for the printing presses of the time.

