

Praxis “Making Science Fun”

Make a cardosaurus?

Today we’ll look at why dinosaurs had long necks and tails.

Materials:

- 2 index cards
- 1 pair of scissors
- 4 push pins
- Different length pencils with an eraser
- tape
- small stones



Procedure: (Remember to be sure to have your parent’s permission and they have the time to watch and help you.)

- Fold one index card in half. This will be the body.
- Use the other card to make 4 short fat legs (2 cm wide by 6 cm tall). Open the card and tape the legs to the inside corners of the card so that each leg sticks out 4 cm. Close the card and stand the body on its legs (It should look like an upside down V held up by the 4 legs).
- Put the pencil inside of the card with the eraser end at almost the middle of the card. This will be the neck of the cardosaurus, the pencil point is the head. Attach the neck to the body using the pins – one on each side of the card (tape if necessary).
- It should be difficult to get the cardosaurus to stand. Depending on the length of the pencil, it keeps wanting to tip on its head.
- Give the cardosaurus a tail by attaching another pencil using the same method. Use pencils of different lengths until you get the cardosaurus to stand without tipping onto its nose or tail.
- Which tail worked best and why?

What's happening?

When the long neck and tail balance each other out like a teeter-tater the cardosaurus will easily stand on its legs. Sauropods, something like Dinny the Dinosaur at the Calgary Zoo, were the large group of long tail and neck dinosaurs. The largest dinosaurs ever found are from this group.

Extension:

Instead of using pencils the nearly the same size to balance the cardosaurus try using a shorter tail but adding small stones as weights at the end of the tail. For all things dinosaur, check out Zoom Dinosaurs site (<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/>).

This activity is based on our “Digging 4 Dinosaurs” Learning Kit. Our teaching kits (described on our website) are loaned out FREE to provide classroom teachers and parents of home schooled children as an opportunity to explore Science in interesting ways. Please consider volunteering as one of our classroom speakers or allow your business as a field trip location.



Our next major event that Praxis is involved with is the Kiwanis Regional South East Alberta Science Fair on March 24th. For more information check out our Praxis website and their website at: <http://www.seab-sciencefair.com/>

Lorne Cooper, Regional Executive Director

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