

Mountain Dinosaur Video

Educator Resource Sheet



Caption: An artist's illustration of *Ferrisaurus sustutensis*
Image credit: Raven Amos

Background

Learn about the mountain dinosaurs in BC! *Ferrisaurus sustutensis*, meaning “the iron lizard from the Sustut River,” was discovered by a geologist working along a railway line north of Smithers. This video introduces how the plant-eating Ferrisaurus adapted to life in ancient redwood forests in BC. Explore the [Mountain Dinosaur pathway](#) to learn more about this unique local species.

Tip: Click on the CC button on the bottomright corner of the video to turn the closed captions on.

BC Curriculum Connections

Kindergarten	Grade 1
<p>Big idea: Plants and animals have observable features</p> <p>Content: Basic needs of plants and animals; Adaptations of local plants and animals; Local First Peoples' uses of plants and animals</p> <p>Competencies: Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world; Discuss observations</p>	<p>Big idea: Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment</p> <p>Content: Names of local plants and animals; Structural features of living things in the local environment; Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment; Local First Peoples' knowledge of the local landscape, plants and animals</p> <p>Competencies: Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world; Make and record observations; Identify simple patterns and connections</p>

Connections with First Peoples

- One of the [First Peoples Principles of Learning](#) is that learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational (focused on connectedness, reciprocal relationships and a sense of place).
- *Ferrisaurus sustutensis* eat seeds, nuts and bark. What plants do people eat? Look at the [lesson plan](#) in Native Plants on the South Coast pathway to learn about Indigenous uses of different plants, such as salmonberry and thimbleberry. Go for a walk around your school neighbourhood to see if you can find these native plants!
- Learn more about how to integrate BC First Peoples content through the Ministry of Education's [Shared Learnings](#) or the First Nations Education Steering Committee's [learning resources](#).

Vocabulary Words

Here are some words that you can teach your students before showing the video.

Bark: tough outside part of a woody plant	Iron: a type of metal that can be used to make objects like railroads
Beak: hard part of a bird's mouth	Jaw: bones that hold the teeth
Bite: to cut with teeth	Lizard: a reptile with rough skin, four legs and a long tail
Bones: hard tissue that makes up the skeleton	Mammal: a warm-blooded animal that uses milk to care for their young
Chew: to tear with teeth	Related to: to have a connection to
Curve: a line that bends with no angles	River: a stream of water that flows into the ocean
Dawn redwood: an evergreen tree found in North America, known for its reddish wood	Seed: grains of a flowering plant
Fossil: remains of a plant or an animal from a long time ago	Sharp: having an edge or point that can cut
Grind up: to crush into small parts	Territory: an area of land
Horn: bony growth on an animal's head, like on a goat	Wonder: to be curious about

Teaching Tips!

- Scientific names are made up of two parts: the genus and species. *Ferrisaurus* is the genus name, and *sustutensis* is the species name in Latin. They are always italicized, with only the first letter of the genus capitalized. Students might be familiar with the scientific name for humans, *Homo sapiens*. Most species have common names (like humans), but *Ferrisaurus* does not have one, so we use the Latin. Practise saying *Ferrisaurus sustutensis* with your students!
- Make sure to discuss **adaptation** with your class before showing the video. An adaptation is something a plant or animal has or does that helps them to survive. Start with animals that students are more familiar with. For example, you might discuss how polar bears are adapted to their environment (they have white fur to blend into the snow and ice in the Arctic). Then, explain how *Ferrisaurus* has a sharp beak, large head and jaws for biting, chewing and grinding up seeds, nuts and bark.
- How long ago is 67 million years, really? Write a million (1,000,000) on the board. How many zeros is this? Encourage students to think about how old dinosaurs are. Use a geological timescale (see below) to compare the age of dinosaurs with the evolution of humans.

Additional Resources

- Find more images, audio clips and videos in the Royal BC Museum's [Mountain Dinosaur of BC Learning Portal pathway](#).
- Learn more about dinosaurs with [National Geographic Kids](#).
- Watch this video from [AsapSCIENCE](#) to learn about the geological timescale.
- Set up a dinosaur dig activity using kinetic sand, dinosaur toys, a paintbrush and a magnifying glass. You can find many variations of this DIY activity online.
- Create a dinosaur footprint fossil using [Let's Talk Science's recipe](#).