

Development of educational program for dinosaur study

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Dinosaur is one of the most popular ancient animals among all generations. The practical use as a dinosaur study, however, has been not always conspicuous at school. In this paper, we analyzed the difference of recognition of dinosaur between USA and Japan, clarified significance of dinosaur study, and proposed contents and activities of dinosaur study. The dinosaur study consists of six activities; 1) inference of dinosaur's weight, 2) inference of dinosaur's intake of food, 3) making replicas of dinosaur's fossils, 4) finding differences between dinosaur and lizard, 5) inference of dinosaur's leg length, and 6) inference of speed deduced from footprints. These activities are systematically and organically combined together with some extended studies, and are summarized as the framework of dinosaur study, which is composed of three categories of dinosaur body, dinosaur behavior and its surrounding environment.