

**A Level Geology**

**Lecturer**  
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**Activity 1 -** Dinosaur case studies factsheet

Select some dinosaurs to research. Try to cover a wide range, a herbivore, carnivore (predator), land and marine dinosaurs (you can include marine reptiles, although strictly not dinosaurs), flying dinosaurs, large and small.

Produce a brief fact sheet for each dinosaur, it could include an image, when the dinosaur lived. Did you know that *Tyrannosaurus rex* (c70mya) lived at a time nearer to humans than it did to *Stegosaurus stenops* (c150mya), although movies often show them as contemporaries. Include facts about diet, and dimensions. You might also be able to find out how they are biologically classified as [Saurischia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saurischia) or [Ornithischia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ornithischia) and Therapods or Sauropods.

**Activity 2 -** Presenting the data

Using the same dinosaurs, and data, you have chosen to create your factsheet, create a PowerPoint presentation suitable to share with your peers via an online meeting such as MS teams.

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**Frequently asked questions**

**How is the subject assessed?**A Level geology is assessed via three exams. Throughout the course we will thoroughly prepare you for the exams with skills development, exemplar answers and practice papers and questions.

**Is there a lot of factual information to learn?**Geology A Level does involve the study of a broad foundation in the specification, but it is not as extensive as some other science subjects. The assumption is that students will not have been given the opportunity to study geology at GCSE and will be starting a new subject from the position of no prior knowledge therefore the content is perhaps not quite as extensive as say biology.

**Do I need to do A Level geology to study in at university?**The short answer is no, it is not a requirement, however studying A Level Geology will give you a really good idea of what it is like to study geology, or any earth science at university, and help inform your decision. You are also at an advantage if you go on to study Earth Sciences at university, having studied it at A Level, as you will acquire substantial foundation understanding which will support your future study.

**What trips/guest speakers are there?**In Geology, there are several extra-curricular opportunities, in recent years we have provided many international residentials to Iceland, Italy and Ireland. There is a requirement to spend a minimum number of days undertaking field work, for which there are also ample local Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Your lecturer has visited and studied these on numerous occasions and is well placed to capitalise on their educational value. Museum visits to the Sea Dragons collection and the Etches museum, Southern and SW universities, have featured strongly in the past.

**What other subjects does A Level Geology go with?**A Level geology is a versatile subject undertaken by students with highly diverse interests from Medicine to Fine Art. It complements study of many other areas, science students typically tend to study geology alongside subjects such as biology, or geography but it has been very successful for most students, no matter what their other subjects are.

**Recommended Browsing**

Find general geology at sites such as:

* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/>
* <https://earthscience.org.uk/>
* <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/>

More specific dinosaurs, fossils, and the structure of the Earth include:

* <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dinosaurs.html>
* <https://www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures/watch/1996/the-history-in-our-bones>
* <https://www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures/watch/1995/planet-earth-an-explorers-guide>