



Dinosaur Bits and Bones

Links to Dinosaur Dreaming

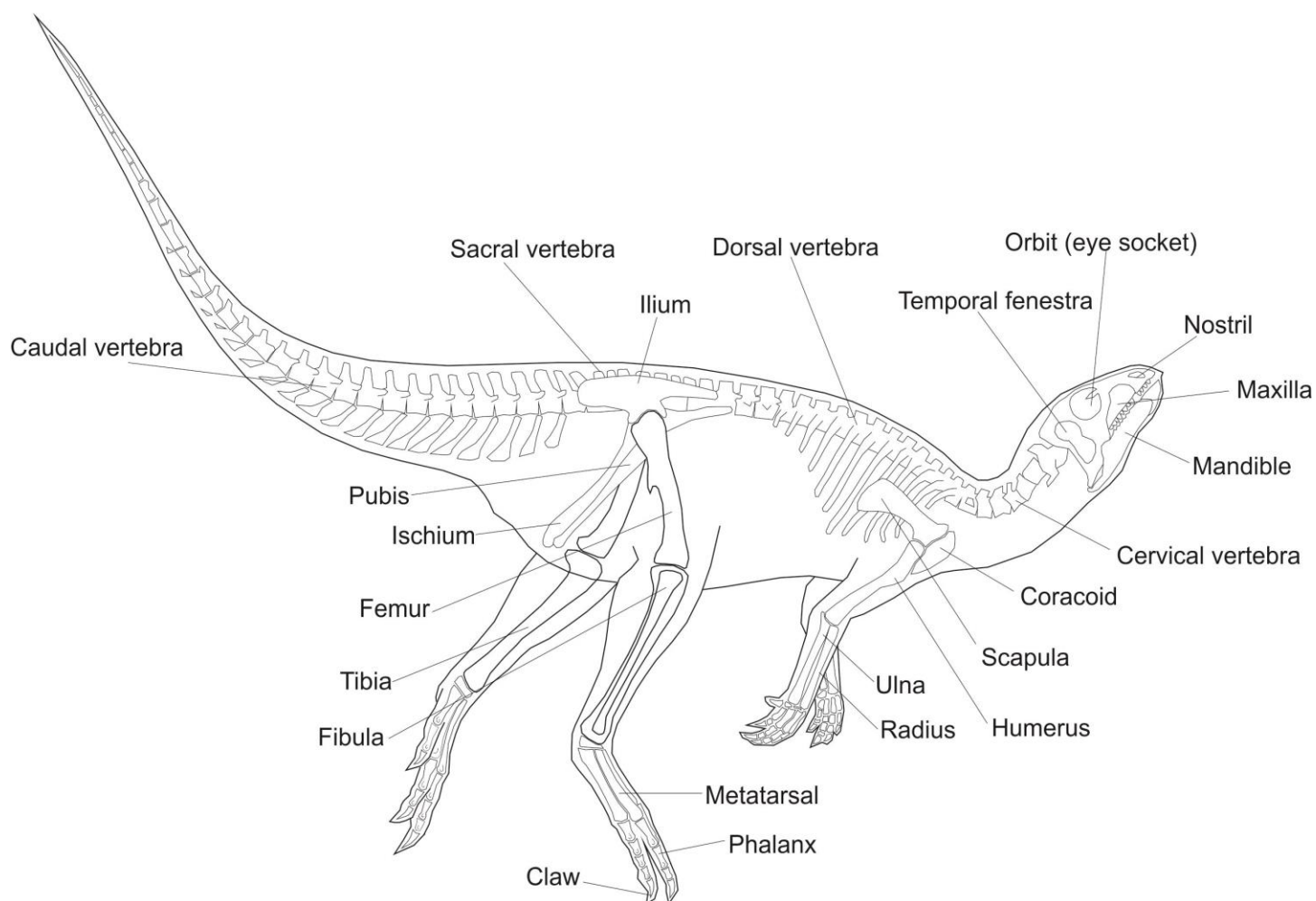
No complete skeletons have been found at the Dinosaur Dreaming dig site, but many isolated bones from different types of dinosaurs have been identified. At least three types of ornithopods have been found and these have been identified from their teeth and some larger bones like thigh bones (femur). The largest femur found is about 25cm long.

Links to Curriculum:

This activity encourages students to think about how the discovery of isolated fossil bones can provide paleontologists with information about the structure and size of dinosaurs. The activity links with the Thinking, Mathematics, Arts and Science domains of VELS.

Procedure:

1. Examine the labeled dinosaur skeleton below and colour in the bones as shown on the colour chart



Colour the bones as follows: Black for femur and humerus; Red for tibia, fibula, radius and ulna, Yellow for ribs, Blue for skull and jaw, Green for all vertebrae.



2. Cut out the sections of the skeleton puzzle below, rearrange the pieces so the dinosaur skeleton is put correctly together. Once you have worked out the correct positions, paste the pieces in the correct position on a piece of card.
3. Colour in or paint the completed dinosaur with felt tip pens so you can see the outside colour of the skin and can no longer see the skeleton inside.

Extension: (for the mathematicians)

Locate the femur on the skeleton. If the femur of this skeleton is 25cm, long how long would the full size dinosaur be? How tall would the dinosaur be? Would this dinosaur be taller than you? Do you think this dinosaur would have been able to run fast? Explain your answer.

