

SPECIES·A·RAMA!

DESCRIPTION

THIS PROJECT IS A SIMPLE CONTEST TO NAME AS MANY DINOSAURS AS YOU CAN IN A CERTAIN TIME LIMIT.

THIS OBVIOUSLY BRINGS UP AN IMMEDIATE QUESTION: WHO CAN NAME MORE DINOSAURS, AN 8-YEAR-OLD OR AN ADULT? BUT IT TURNS OUT TO BE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, AS THE TENSION BUILDS BETWEEN ONE'S MEMORY AND ONE'S SPEED-WRITING SKILLS!

BY ASKING FOR A LIST OF DINOSAURS WITHIN A TIME LIMIT, THE PARTICIPANTS ARE FORCED TO RATTLE OFF THE ONES THAT ARE THE MOST DEEPLY BURNED INTO THEIR MEMORIES. THESE WILL IN TURN TEND TO BE THE DINOSAURS THAT ARE THE MOST PROLIFICALLY REPRODUCED WITHIN POPULAR CULTURE AND HAVE THE STRONGEST RESONANCE WITH ONE'S OWN PSYCHE, THUS PROVIDING US WITH INTERESTING DATA ON THESE SUBJECTS.

THIS INFORMATION ALSO ENABLES US TO SEE A SECONDARY HIERARCHY OF DINOSAUR POPULARITY. WORKING ON THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE DINOSAURS NAMED FIRST ARE THE MOST POPULAR AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY RELEVANT, WHILE THOSE THAT COME LATER ARE, LITERALLY, AFTERTHOUGHTS, WE CAN SEE THAT SOME ARE EVEN MORE CLEARLY SALIENT IN OUR CULTURE THAN OTHERS.

IN ORDER TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE THESE RESULTS, THIS CHART SHOWS WHICH DINOSAURS WERE NAMED BY EACH PERSON, AND IN WHAT GENERAL ORDER.

THE CONTESTANTS ARE LISTED IN ORDER OF THE NUMBER OF DINOSAURS THEY WERE ABLE TO NAME, FROM MOST TO LEAST, ON THE X-AXIS. ALL THE DINOSAURS THAT HAVE BEEN NAMED SO FAR ARE THEN LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER ON THE Y-AXIS. FOR EVERY DINOSAUR THAT A CONTESTANT NAMED, A RED DOT HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE INTERSECTION OF THEIR NAME AND THE DINOSAUR'S NAME. IN ADDITION, THE RED DOTS ARE SURROUNDED BY GREY-SCALE RINGS. EACH CONTESTANT'S FIRST-NAMED DINOSAUR HAS A VERY DARK RING; THE FARTHER DOWN THE LIST THAT A DINOSAUR WAS NAMED, THE LIGHTER THEIR RING GETS.

THE FORM

PORTABLE PALEONTOLOGICAL PROJECTS & POLLS

Species-a-rama!

Goal: Name as many dinosaur species as you can. You can choose your own time limit: 1 minute, 5 minutes, or 15 minutes.

You are in a race against yourself, and may try this project as many times as you wish. You are also in a contest against everyone else who takes the test: all contestants' names and their scores will be organized by time category (1, 5, 15 minutes) and posted on the internet at www.chriswildick.com under the "Interactive Projects" link.

Rules on Names: This challenge is designed towards inclusiveness. The point is not to see who can best take advantage of the intricacies and controversies of cladograms or dinosaur nomenclature rules, but to see if you can name a whole lot of dinosaurs really fast. Thus, "dinosaur" is meant in its colloquial sense and includes all dinosaur-like animals such as their coeval flying and swimming reptiles, pelycosaurs, dinosaur-bird transitional forms, etc. Nomen ex dissertatione, nomen dubium, nomen nudum, nomen oblitum, ichnospecies, and synonyms are all allowed.

If there is a question as to the validity of a listed dinosaur species, it will be checked against a set of the reputedly "complete lists of all dinosaur species" found on the internet. If it is included on one of these lists, it will count; if not, it won't.

Your Name:

Category of Competition (circle one): 1 minute 5 minutes 15 minutes

1.		13.
2.		14.
3.		15.
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12.		24.

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ANALYSIS

TYRANNOSAURUS REX IS THE ONLY DINOSAUR NAMED BY EVERY SINGLE CONTESTANT. ONE CAN SEE THAT IT WAS NAMED EARLY ON WITHIN EACH PARTICIPANT'S LIST BY THE DARKNESS OF THE RING AROUND MOST OF ITS DOTS, AND IN FACT IT WAS ACTUALLY NAMED FIRST BY HALF OF THE CONTESTANTS, FAR MORE THAN ANY OTHER DINOSAUR.

TRICERATOPS HAS THE SECOND-MOST NUMBER OF DOTS AND STEGOSAURUS HAS THE THIRD-MOST. HOWEVER, STEGOSAURUS HAS MORE "FIRST-NAMED" DARK RINGS THAN TRICERATOPS, SUGGESTING A CURIOUS CONTEST OF POPULARITY BETWEEN THE TWO: MORE PEOPLE THOUGHT OF TRICERATOPS, BUT MORE PEOPLE THOUGHT OF STEGOSAURUS **BEFORE** THEY THOUGHT OF TRICERATOPS! AFTER THEM, THE LIST DROPS OFF MORE PRECIPITOUSLY, WITH VERY FEW OTHERS THAT WERE NAMED NEARLY AS OFTEN OR NAMED FIRST. NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE LISTINGS FOR BRONTOSAURUS AND APATOSAURUS (WHICH ARE TWO DIFFERENT NAMES FOR THE SAME DINOSAUR) WERE COMBINED TOGETHER, THEY WOULD BE IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS TRICERATOPS.

MANY OF THESE DINOSAURS WERE ONLY NAMED BY THE FIRST TWO CONTESTANTS ON THE LEFT, WHO TOOK THE 5-MINUTE, AS OPPOSED TO 1-MINUTE, VERSION OF THE GAME (THEY ALSO BOTH HAPPEN TO BE PALEONTOLOGISTS). SIMILARLY, THERE ARE ALSO VERY FEW CONTESTANTS WHO NAMED DINOSAURS THAT WERE NOT NAMED DURING ONE OF THESE TWO 5-MINUTE GAMES. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE OBSERVATIONS SUGGEST THAT THIS LIST, EVEN IN ITS CURRENT FORM, IS A FAIRLY GOOD REPRESENTATION OF THE MOST POPULAR DINOSAURS.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN IN THIS PROJECT AND FILL OUT YOUR VERY OWN **SPECIES-A-RAMA!** FORM--CAN YOU NAME MORE DINOSAURS THAN THESE CONTESTANTS DID?

