

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences

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Teachers' Resource Pack: **Triassic Cuddle**

First Level Learners | Created by Lindsey Law

Discovery Film Festival | Mon 2 – Wed 18 November 2026

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Introduction

Discovery Learning Resources give you exciting classroom activities to enhance Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

They are created by classroom teachers and education professionals.

Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare teachers for a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film and to extend the impact of that visit for delivery of CfE
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy/moving image texts

Each resource is free and available to download from:

<https://www.dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-resources/>

Triassic Cuddle (Un Cuplu Triasic)

Dir: Iulia Teodora Turicianu

Romania, 2025 / 5min

Triassic Cuddle

Synopsis:

A small prehistoric amphibian goes on a journey with the goal of finding its mate. It faces many threats from both its' fellow creatures and the changing planet.

Advisory note:

The main character struggles to navigate its' way through the changing natural disasters and threats posed by predatory creatures. Some children may find this a little alarming but it demonstrates the dramatic changes that the planet went through.

Teacher's notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

This pack is aimed at First Level learners. This film is recommended for up to P4. The following CfE Experiences and Outcomes are covered in this pack:

Literacy and English: **LIT 1-02a, LIT 1.04a, LIT 1.05a, LIT 1.06a, LIT 1.06a lit 1.09A LIT 1.20a, LIT 1.25a, LIT 1.26a.**

Social Studies: **SOC 1.01a, SOC 1.02a.**

Art and Design: **EXA 1-02a, EXA 1-03a, EXA 1.04a, EXA 0 1-05a.**

Teacher quote:

This short film is a remarkably vivid and apparently simple recounting of the impact of a violent changing planet and its' effect on the creatures living at the time. It is an excellent introduction to the topic of dinosaurs and dinosaur fossils. A huge range of activities, covering most aspects of the curriculum flow from this.



Before watching the film:

Activity 1: Study of film poster (Literacy and English)

Screen Scotland is developing a curriculum for Film and Screen Learning. It incorporates ten elements of film making and film interpretation. One of the ten elements is the film Theme. This theme can be suggested in the film poster shown.

A film maker produces a poster in order advertise the film and encourage people to come and see it.

Copies of the poster can either be copied amongst small groups or displayed on an interactive whiteboard.

Using the poster shown in **Appendix 1** answer the following questions and give reasons for your suggestions and answers.

- What is the title of the film?
- The title is in Romanian but it is possible to tell in what prehistoric period it is set.
- Describe the landscape and the vegetation which can be seen.
- Describe the two main characters which can be seen in the poster.
- One character is a timid creature and the other is ferocious. Which is which?
- Predict what you think might happen in the film.



Activity 2: **Matching image to narrative (Literacy & English)**

The film maker is telling a story through a sequence of images. This is known as the narrative. This is another of the ten elements of Film and Screen Learning. It tells you what is happening, when it is happening and why it is happening. Some elements of this narrative will refer to the same image.

Appendix 2.

Read the description and decide which image best fits this and put the image number in the box beside the description.

Description	Image number
There is a pair of diplodocus beside a lake.	
The amphibian is captured in the mouth of a tyrannosaurus rex.	
The amphibian dinosaur is curled up beside another dinosaur.	
The sky is a deep reddish orange and purple.	
The earth is orange and brown.	
There is a volcano beginning to erupt in the background.	
The cave is turning black.	
The sky is turning orange.	
There is yellow sand at the water's edge.	
There are four very dark trees.	
There are two brightly coloured amphibian dinosaurs face to face.	



Activity 3: **Story Sequence (English and Literacy)**

Colour is another of the ten elements. It creates the emotional tone for the film.

Give out copies of the dinosaur images from **Appendix 2** or show on interactive whiteboard. Using the descriptions from **Activity 2** as a prompt, place all the images in sequence and retell the story of what happened to the amphibian dinosaur and his ill-fated hunt for a mate. Colour is the film maker's way of showing a variety of moods.

Use colour descriptions to explain the mood and feeling in the story as it gets darker and darker towards the end.

Activity 4: **Un Cuplu Triassic (Triassic Cuddle) (Art & Design)**

Using the images from **Activity 3**, create a collage using a limited palette of colour to show a prehistoric scene of your choosing. This can be one of the cheerful lively colourful scenes or one of the more dramatic scenes when the planet was in upheaval.

1. Collage is a fun and accessible art form where you layer a range of sugar paper, tissue paper and objects to create unique compositions which is perfect for beginners and more experienced practitioners.
2. Materials:
3. Magazines, newspapers, old books, sugar paper, tissue paper and wrapping paper.
4. Objects: wool, string, tree bark, and dried leaves,
5. Adhesives: glue sticks for paper, PVA glue for sealing and layering.
6. Scissors.
7. Brushes for spreading glue.
8. Basic Techniques:
9. Cutting and Tearing: Mix precise cuts with torn edges to add texture and visual interest.

Layering: Overlap papers and objects to create depth. Start with a background layer and build up the picture.

Mixing Textures: Combine smooth paper with bark or dried leaves or string for texture and contrast

Colour: Choose colours which reflect the different phases in the planet's changes.

Paint: Acrylic paint can be used as a background or glue for thin papers, and add extra colour. Dilute PVA can be used as a finishing varnish if required

Activity 5: Exploring fossils (Art & Design)

View **Image 3** again. It corresponds with the final scene of the film with the amphibian settling into the cave and the film makes showing how it looks in the present day as a fossil.

Compare and contrast how the creature looked in life and how the fossils were discovered.

Now make your own fossil and colour it as you choose referring back to the film images you have seen.



Appendix 1: Poster



Appendix 2: Activity 3





More information:

Useful websites/Links:

More information about dinosaurs from the different prehistoric periods can be found here.

I Wonder Why series *Triceratops Had Horns*. www.kingfisherpub.com

This answers a series of often asked questions about dinosaur. It also offers an A-V glossary of dinosaur names.

KS1 Dinosaurs: Primary Topic Packs – BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkcs9ty#z7wgqyc>

This contains a range of information including:

- A dinosaur summary.
- A dinosaur animation video
- Illustrations of dinosaurs
- A Dinosaur Discovery game.
- How do we know about dinosaurs? (Introduction to fossils)
- Dinosaur dot-to-dot activities.

Books of Interest – May be requested from a local library service:

Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Creatures. Matt Sewell. Red Shed

Stories and their Bones; Fossils and the Stories They tell. Rob Wilshaw. Cicada

The Fossil Hunter. Kate Winter. Puffin



Evaluating this resource

We hope that you found this resource useful and appropriate. Please do send us any film reviews, letters from your pupils, documentation of classwork and your feedback by e-mailing olivia.knight@dca.org.uk

Would you make a good Discovery Film Festival Case Study?

We are seeking a number of simple Case Studies in how teachers have used or are using Discovery films in the classroom across Curriculum for Excellence and across the Levels.

Any case studies that we develop would be intended for presentation on GLOW, the Creativity Portal and on Discovery Film Festival websites. We have a simple template to be completed and are keen to have classwork and documentation included. If you would like to be a Discovery Case Study please e-mail olivia.knight@dca.org.uk