

***THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* (a dino fantasy)
By Janet Lawler
Illustrated by Martin Davey
Published by: Pelican Publishing Company**

BIRTHDAY PARTY PLANNER

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Once every thousand years, dinosaurs from around the world fight tooth and claw to win medals at epic athletic events. Rollicking rhyme and the vibrant art of Martin Davey make *THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* a great party theme and read-aloud.

PARTY INVITATIONS: Print off, fill in, and mail invitations (see attached invite).

PARTY GAMES:

Depending on number of kids and age of participants, games below can be selected, expanded, or skipped. Game Stations offered may depend on number of adult supervisors.

DINO FOOTWEAR:

Advance prep/materials:

Using green felt, create pairs of dinosaur feet that children can place over shoes (see attached template). Note: This could be a possible craft activity for older children; adults to cut the center “star” of slits to allow for placement on feet. (Dino masks available from vendors such as Oriental Trading Co: http://www.orientaltrading.com/dinosaur-masks-a2-25_2006.fltr)

LIGHTING THE TORCH/OPENING PARTY MARCH:

Advance prep/materials:

Volcano: Wrap a 5-gallon plastic pail in green and brown sparkling ribbon. Inside, loop a string of mini white holiday light bulbs in and around red/orange sparkling wide ribbon (extending out and above the lip of the pail; a wrapping paper tube can create a peak). Plugged in, there will be a red/orange glow; tell guests to use their imaginations to pretend this is a volcano.

Torch: Use a flashlight (or a short set of sparkling lights, with on/off switch, wrapped within loops of red/orange sparkling wide ribbon (to imitate a flame) attached to a torch base (wrap flashlight or fat stick with brown paper).

Torch Activities:

Once all guests have arrived, have the birthday child touch the torch to the “flame” of the volcano while turning ON the flashlight (or internal mini lights switch in the flame).

Have the torch passed from child to child as part of *THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* opening ceremony, and play dinosaur march music as birthday child leads guests in a march around the room. (A good song is *We Are the Dinosaurs* by Laurie Berner Band:
https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=we+are+the+dinosaurs&fr=ush-mailn_02&fr2=p%3Aml%2Cm%3Asb&hspar=att&hsimp=yhs-att_001&type=yahoo_pc_mail)

READ THE STORY:

Have guests all take seats after march. READ *THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* (use expression!)

OPTIONAL ADDED CONTENT (if guests are interested):

Explain that *THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* is fantasy/make-believe—that the author has made up the story from her imagination, thinking of some of the summer Olympics events, and that the illustrator had a lot of fun imagining the world of these dinosaur competitions.

Say names of dinosaurs mentioned in the Pronunciation Guide (while pointing out that dinosaur in book); ask children to repeat names with you.

Ask kids about their favorite dinosaurs and favorite games.

Discuss the Olympics. Share basic information, such as:

This international athletic competition features many different events.

Many countries around the world send athletes to compete for medals.

The Olympics started in Ancient Greece (776 BC to AD 393).

Modern Olympic Games began in 1896 (Summer Games began in 1924).

Games begin with lighting of Olympic torch that burns for all days the Games are held.

The flame symbolizes the light of spirit, knowledge, and life and is the herald of peace.

Today's summer Olympics have about 10,000 athletes representing 190 nations.

Games kick off with an opening ceremony that includes a march of all athletes.

GAME STATIONS (To be set up ahead of time):

At conclusion of reading of book, demonstrate/explain each game station.

Bronto Bean Bag Toss

Advance prep/materials:

Using large, sturdy foam board, create a dinosaur face, creating a cut-out for gaping mouth that children can throw bean bags through. Sets up easily along a wall.

Best to have small bean bags for use.

Place starting line tape (of quality to stick on venue floor surface) a few feet out from set-up (so most children can succeed in throwing).

Determine number of bags thrown/tries to keep activity moving, depending on group size.

Prehistoric Artists

Advance prep/materials:

Set up table(s) with crayons, markers, and coloring sheets from *THE PREHISTORIC GAMES* (attached); optional additional dinosaur art activities can be offered such as blank sheets for creating dino scenes with stickers, crayon rubbings of textured papers/fossils, etc.

Jurassic Long Jump

Advance prep/materials:

Use tape to create a starting line and distance markers. On distance markers, write in large letters, YES!, FAR, WOW!, AWESOME, INCREDIBLE or other superlatives.

Note: Have children start their jump with feet together at starting line (no running starts).

T-Rex Ring Toss

Advance prep/materials:

3–4 large cones and rings for tossing. Glue/tape/paint T-Rex dinosaur images on cones.

Use tape to create line, at an age-appropriate distance, from behind which children will toss rings.

Excavation Station

Advance prep/materials:

Fill shallow, heavy-duty storage bins with ½ bag sterile sandbox sand. Bury plastic or other dino “fossils” (no need to be too accurate; fine to include small plastic dino toys). Provide small, hand-held sifters (tea leaf holders work well) for children to uncover items.

DINO FOOD and DESSERT: For many and varied choices, visit:

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/dinosaur-themed-food/>

CLOSING MARCH:

Close party with a closing march to dino music and extinguish (turn off) torch. Place a *PREHISTORIC GAMES* medal around each child’s neck.

All children can leave with a *PREHISTORIC GAMES* medal (see template), their dino feet, one item excavated, and a coloring sheet they have created in in the Artists Arena (see attached).

Note: additional dino-themed party favor bags or items may be included.

Optional: Contact author at J.Lawler@snet.net (subject line: Prehistoric Games party) for details regarding purchase of autographed book for birthday child and/or as guest party favors.

Come celebrate my birthday and ***THE PREHISTORIC GAMES!!!***

DATE:

WHEN:

WHERE:



RSVP by:

RSVP to:

From:

THE PREHISTORIC GAMES Medal

Illustration © Martin Davey



Print medals on card stock paper, cut out, fold over, and hole-punch. Use 24" thin hemp or twine lengths for a prehistoric-looking ribbon.

Time and labor-saving alternative: Use a circle punch (craft stores will have one just about the same diameter as this medal) to punch out medals (tab will not be used). Use glue dots and/or glue to affix two sides of each medal together, with the two ends of ribbon secured between.

THE PREHISTORIC GAMES Birthday Party Planner ©Janet Lawler
(medal illustration ©Martin Davey)



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by Janet Lawler

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