

Lesson Plan (Pre-visit) – First Grade  
Diagram of a Carcharodontosaurus

**PURPOSE:** Students will learn how to read a diagram with labels.

**ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS:**

1. B. Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency
1. C. Comprehend a broad range of reading materials
2. B. Read and interpret a wide variety of literary works
5. B. Analyze and evaluate information from various sources
17. A. Locate places on the earth

**ASSESSMENT:** Students make their own diagram of a carcharodontosaurus with labels.

**MODIFICATIONS:** The teacher can provide labels to be glued in correct position on students' individual diagrams.

**STRATEGIES:** Direct instruction

**MATERIALS:** Globe or world map, an Internet connection to Zoom Dinosaurs  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/dinotemplates/Carcharodontosaurus.shtml>  
and a Carcharodontosaurus diagram.

**OPENING:** How many of you have seen pictures of dinosaurs or read about dinosaurs? Which dinosaur do you think was the most dangerous? (most students will probably name the Tryannosaurus) Today we're going to be learning about a dinososaur that looked like T Rex but lived in Africa. Let's find out where Africa is. (share this location on a globe or map). When we visit the ***Giants*** exhibit at the library we will be able to see a skull and a flesh model of this dinosaur. (5 minutes)

Then the teacher shares the Carcharodontosarus anatomy information at Zoom Dinosaurs via TV-ator, projection device, or smart board.

**PROCEDURE:** We're going to be using the Internet to get information about this African dinosaur. How many of you use the Internet at home? Why do you use it? Today we'll be visiting a site called ***Zoom Dinosaurs***. It has real information about many dinosaurs that lived long ago. When I visit this site I will have to use the same strategies I do when reading non-fiction or fact books.

Begin by looking at the drawing. Give the students time to make observations and share. Then read the information in the *Anatomy* section to them. Explain that *anatomy* means they will be learning about this dinosaur's body. (5 minutes)

## **PROCEDURE (cont'd):**

Scroll back to the top of this site and click on the link taking you to the Carcharodontosaurus print-out. Or you may pass out individual diagrams. I want you to look carefully at this new drawing because it will help you later on today when I ask you to do your own drawing of a Carcharodontosaurus. Ask the students to tell you how this drawing is different from the first drawing. Explain that this type of drawing is called a **diagram**. Draw their attention to the **labels**. Explain that many non-fiction books (fact books) will have a drawing with labels. The labels are there to direct our attention to important information. In this case it is important information about the animal's body. Then take the students through the diagram, discussing each label. Point out that the words in the label are written in a straight line and we read them left-to-right just like we do the text in a book. Discuss how the arrows connect the labels to the matching body part. Note that the labels are not always horizontal like the text. (10 minutes)

Turn off the Internet connection and recollect any hand-outs. We just finished reading a diagram about the Carcharodontosaurus. What do you remember about its head, its legs, its arms, or its tail? (Wait for responses after each question – making sure that information recalled is accurate.) Pass out a blank sheet of paper to each student. Now we're going to make our own diagram of the Carcharodontosaurus. You will need to draw an outline of its body and label the parts that you think are important. (30 minutes)

**CLOSURE:** Today we have learned about diagrams. Diagrams have labels that share important information. We need to know how to read them when we see them in non-fiction or fact books. I will be calling on several people to share their diagrams. If I call on you, hold your diagram up so that all of us can see it clearly and tell about one of your labels. (5 minutes)

**EXTENSIONS:** Use one of the diagrams in a shared writing lesson with the focus being on writing a description of the Carcharodontosaurus.