

"Are Dinosaurs Birds?" Debate Activity

Birds evolved from a species of dinosaur, eventually becoming unrecognisable from their ancestors.

Some people believe this is true, some people believe it is a myth, so it makes an interesting debate.

It's a skill to argue a different point of view to your own, however, so separate the class into two equal teams, regardless of their opinion on the matter. Either let them come up with their own arguments or use the following prompts to help them.

Birds **did** evolve from dinosaurs

- We know that some dinosaurs were able to fly.
 - Some dinosaurs had feathers.
- Fossils have been found of a dinosaur very similar to a duck. Scientists have even realised that it would have quacked like a duck also.
 - Dinosaurs laid eggs

Birds **did not** evolve from dinosaurs

- Didn't the dinosaurs *all* die out together?
- Dinosaurs were reptiles and birds are not.
- How could anything survive a mass extinction event?
- Some of the bones and organs of a bird are different to the bones and organs of a dinosaur.

Then have a debate, making sure that everyone in the class get a chance to speak. Try and get a conversation going from one team to the other.