

The Little Einsteins loved visiting the natural history museum, especially its dinosaur room. In fact, they were so fascinated by the dinosaurs that they didn't realize the museum had closed!

"We totally lost track of time!" exclaimed Quincy. "Looks like we're spending the night with these giant reptiles."

"But aren't snakes and alligators reptiles?" asked Annie.

"That's right, Annie. And like most reptiles, dinosaurs hatched from eggs and had rough bumpy or scaly skin," Leo explained.

"But dinosaurs don't exist today; they lived on the Earth millions of years ago," said Quincy.

June thought her eyes were playing tricks on her. "Speaking of things that no longer exist, where's the triceratops exhibit that was here just a minute ago?"

To find the triceratops, follow its footprints.



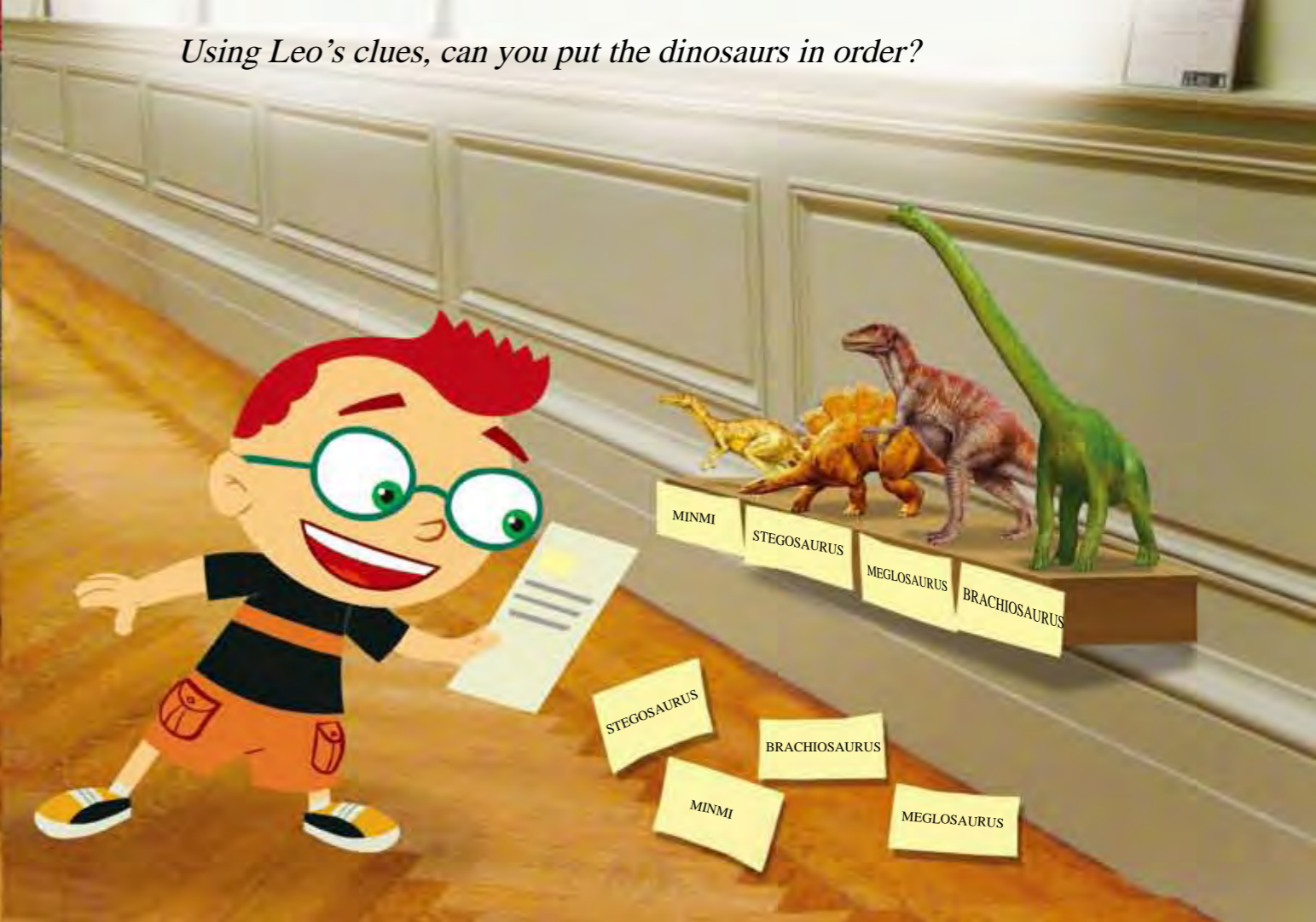
Annie was amazed. “Whoa, the exhibits must come to life at night! Is that you playing hide-and-seek, Mr. Triceratops?”

Quincy ran over to the triceratops’ display sign. “It says that the word triceratops means ‘three-horned face’—yep, that’s our guy!”



Leo looked at his museum brochure and then at the display case in front of him. “These models are out of order. They should be organized shortest to tallest,” he said. “First comes the three-foot-tall minmi. Next should be the nine-foot-tall stegosaurus, which had pointy plates along its spine. Third comes the meglosaurus, which walked on two legs, and finally, the long-necked, forty-foot-tall brachiosaurus.”

Using Leo’s clues, can you put the dinosaurs in order?



June giggled at the paintings on the wall. “What a silly gallimimus! He thinks he’s fooling us by hiding in that painting.”

Annie was puzzled. “The painting looks fine to me.”

“Humans didn’t exist until sixty-five million years after dinosaurs, so there’s no way cavemen ever met the gallimimus,” explained June.

“Whoa! Nice work, Detective June!” said Annie.



“Here’s another cool fact,” added June. “Scientists believe that many dinosaurs are related to birds.”

“But dinosaurs are so huge compared to birds,” reasoned Quincy.

“Not all of them,” Leo said. “Some, such as the compsognathus, were about the size of a chicken! They even had beaks and three-clawed feet like birds.”

To see what the compsognathus looked like, check out the museum’s Book of Dinosaurs.



Compsognathus
could run about
twenty-five
miles an hour!

Annie was curious. “If dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, how can we know so much about them?”

“Thanks to paleontologists—scientists who study prehistoric life,” explained June. “They go on digs to uncover dinosaur bones buried beneath layers of rock.”

“But how do scientists know how to put the bones together?” asked Quincy.

Leo flipped through the *Book of Dinosaurs*. “The book says bird skeletons are so similar to dinosaur skeletons that paleontologists use them to figure out how the bones go together.”

“That’s right,” added June. “And by studying dinosaur skeletons and fossils, scientists can tell a dinosaur’s weight, how fast it could move, and more!”

Check out Rocket’s screen to see a dinosaur fossil a paleontologist found!

