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The Happy Scientist

## Drawing Really Big Dinosaurs

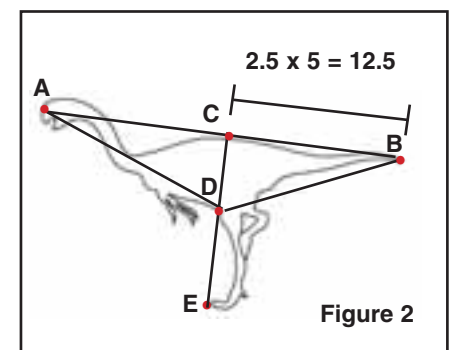
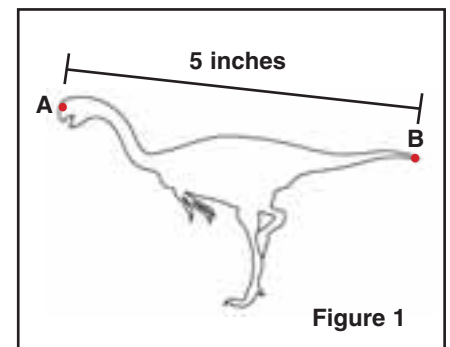
One of the mind-boggling things about studying dinosaurs is understanding how big some of them were. This activity will help students learn about supersized dinosaurs by having them draw a picture of one. These instructions are designed for a teacher leading a group. To help students see how big *Gigantoraptor* was, follow the directions below.

### What You Need

- the *Gigantoraptor* drawing from page 2
- a ruler
- a tape measure
- chalk or masking tape

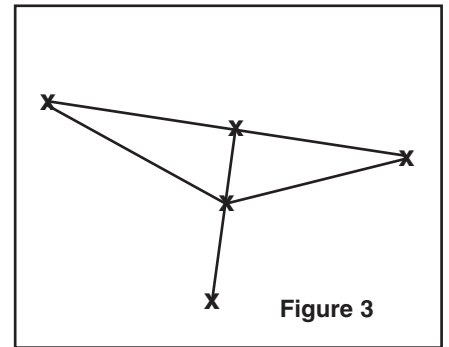
### What To Do

1. Print the picture of the *Gigantoraptor* from page 2. It will be the pattern for drawing the life-sized picture.
2. Place a dot on the tip of the nose. Label it A. Place a dot at the tip of the tail. Label it point B.
3. Use a ruler to measure the distance from A to B (see Figure 1). It should be 5 inches. The real *Gigantoraptor* was 25 feet long.
4. Calculate the scale of the drawing. To find the scale of the drawing, divide the actual length in feet (25) by the number of inches in the drawing (5). That tells us that each inch in the drawing represents 5 feet.
5. Make more dots on the picture. Halfway between A and B is the highest part of *Gigantoraptor's* back. Put a dot there and label it C.
6. Draw a dot where the top of *Gigantoraptor's* leg meets its body. Label it D.
7. Put a dot at the tip of the toe. Then label it E.
8. Measure the distances between the dots on the picture (see Figure 2). For example, the distance from the tip of the tail to the tallest point on the back is 2.5 inches. Multiply that by 5, and we know that the actual distance was 12.5 feet. Write 12.5 between those two dots.
9. Measure the distances between the rest of the dots on your picture and calculate the distances in feet.
10. Once you have all the measurements, you are ready to draw a full-sized *Gigantoraptor*. Find a large, flat area to work on. If you are going outside, you can use chalk. If you are working indoors, you



can use masking tape. Make a small X with on the ground with the chalk or the tape. That will be point B, the tip of your life-sized *Gigantoraptor's* tail.

- 11.** Use the tape measure to measure the distance you calculated on your drawing from B to A. Put another X on the ground. That will be the nose. Follow your measurements and put X's on the ground for all the dots on your picture.
- 12.** Connect the X's as they are in Figure 3. Draw a line between the X's with chalk or connect the X's with long pieces of masking tape.
- 13.** Fill in the details with the help of your students. At point A, draw *Gigantoraptor's* head. At point E, draw feet with claws. If you want to add an arm, draw one more X on the line between points A and D. The X should be about 5 feet from point D. Draw an arm here. Now you can draw in details for the neck, arms, leg, and tail.



Once you have completed the full-sized image, students can walk around it, getting a feel for how incredibly big *Gigantoraptor* was. Imagine it walking across the lawn. What a huge creature! Then remember that compared to some of the truly big dinosaurs, this was a small one. Some were more than four times this long!

