

Secret Dinosaurs

A silly freeform game for two to four players
by Eva Schiffer

Dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago... or did they?

In this game you take on the role of a secret dinosaur living hidden among the humans. No GM is needed, but you do need to be able to go out to eat at a sit down restaurant (the sort where you will be served at your table by a human server).

Setup

Each player chooses a type of dinosaur to be from the list below. It is more fun if you each choose different types. Your secret dinosaur identity isn't a secret from your fellow players or characters, but it is a secret from the rest of the world. Your cover identity as a human is your real life identity as a player, so pick a dinosaur type that will work with that. Feel free to draw any details from your actual life that help you portray your secret dinosaur.

Agree on some sort of ridiculous premise for why dinosaurs are hidden among humans.

Suggestions: you were all in a giant underground cave ecosystem and recent drilling for oil freed you, you are the souls of dead dinosaurs possessing actual humans, you are some sort of Highlander-esque beings who are locked in an eternal struggle for immortality so you laughed at meteor strikes, dinosaurs were actually aliens from another world and you are a group sent to check on their missing colony.

Feel free to make up something even less coherent than any of those.

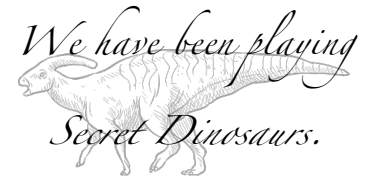
At the Restaurant

All players should meet at a sit-down restaurant for a meal.

During the meal you should discuss your dinosaur trials and tribulations whenever the server isn't near your table. Talk about your lives and how frustrating humans are and how you are coping with your dinosaur problems.

Please keep in mind that since the server is not "in on the joke" you don't want to scare or upset them. Try to make play amusing, even for people around you who are not players, and steer away from creating threatening or frightening situations.

If the server doesn't ask you what is going on by the time they bring you the check, everybody wins! Clap each other on your scaly backs, leave a card (provided on right) explaining the game for the server, and then go out for ice cream. Dinosaurs love ice cream!



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If the server does ask what's going on, tell them you are playing a game and give them the card explaining the game. You can stop pretending to be dinosaurs at this point if you want, but feel free to go out for ice cream after the meal anyway. Humans love ice cream too!

Dinosaur Types*

Ankylosaurus - The one good thing about being surrounded by humans is that most of them have a decent sense of humor. You love telling jokes and being the center of attention, and while this sometimes doesn't work so well around humans (you can't let them know you're a dinosaur for one thing) they are social enough that you get lots of chances to figure out humor they will find funny.

Pterodactyl - Something about your pterodactyl pheromones is irresistibly sexy to humans. Seriously, you're like some kind of catnip for them. It can be fun, but it also gets super irritating.

Hadrosaur - You are very musical, but the life of a musician can be a little tough when your hearing range is way wider than that of the humans around you. Being able to hear things even higher than mosquito ringtones gets pretty old in a world full of squeaky machines.

Stegosaurus - The world may be covered in humans, but it is also covered in beautiful natural places. You love hiking and exploring nature and are kind of glad that you have access to human photography supplies to record your journeys.

Triceratops - You have always liked etiquette, so living among humans has been a great study in understanding all of their bizarre and intricate social dances. You do, however, find it very irritating that many humans don't know how to follow their own rules, so rude.

Tyrannosaurus - You are so glad that humans invented settled agriculture, because with it came baking and you're pretty sure that's the best invention ever! You love baking (especially cookies!) and find it easiest to make friends by sharing your baked goods with humans and dinosaurs alike.

Velociraptor - You have always liked making things with your claws, so you are super into the fact that humans are so good with their hands (many dinosaurs aren't as dextrous as you). Woodworking, sewing, knitting, bricklaying, you are up for any sort of hobby that involves making things and especially like making small and intricate things.

* Yes, I know pterodactyls are technically not dinosaurs.

Images "Designed by Freepik"