

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

Study Notes



Directed by: Carlos Saldanha

Certificate: U (contains scenes of threat, mild comic violence and innuendo)

Running time: 94 mins

Release date: 1 July 2009

Synopsis

Scrat is still trying to nab the ever-elusive nut; Manny and Ellie await the birth of their mini-mammoth; Diego the sabre-toothed tiger wonders if he's growing too 'soft' hanging with his pals and Sid the sloth gets into trouble when he hijacks some dinosaur eggs. On a mission to rescue the hapless Sid, the gang ventures into a mysterious underground world, where they have some close encounters with dinosaurs and meet a relentless, one-eyed, dino-hunting weasel named Buck.

Before seeing the film

1. 1. What do you know about the two earlier films, Ice Age and Ice Age: The Meltdown? If you have seen those films, think of words that describe them; if not, make a few predictions about what sort of films they might be and what you think might happen. What kinds of stories and characters might you expect to come across in Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs?

2. What do you know about the Ice Age? Find out what evidence of that period we have. What do you think life would have been like for humans during that time?

3. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs features the following creatures:

- Woolly Mammoths
- A Smilodon (sabre-toothed tiger)
- A Megalonyx (giant ground sloth)
- Sabre-toothed squirrels
- Opossums
- A weasel

Choose one of these species to look up and read about in more detail. One of these creatures never really existed; the filmmakers made it up. Which one is it? Which of these mammals are extinct and which are still around today?

After seeing the film

1. In the film, the mammoths Manny and Ellie are expecting a child but Manny worries he won't be able to keep his family safe. Sid is jealous of Manny and Ellie and tries to create a family of his own by adopting three baby dinosaurs. Who helps to keep you safe? Try to fill in the table below with a number of examples – one has already been given. Next to each person write something kind or helpful that they do for you.

	Name	How they keep you safe	Something kind or helpful they do
Family & friends			
School & community	Fire brigade		

2. The film features many different kinds of dinosaurs. Choose one to research from the list below and as a class, create a Dinosaur Dictionary with information about size, physical features, movement, diet etc.

- Tyrannosaurus
- Ankylosaurus
- Baryonyx
- Guanlong
- Pteranodon
- Quetzalcoatlus

3. All the Ice Age films begin with a scene featuring sabre-toothed squirrel Scrat, trying to catch and bury an acorn. This time he meets a female, Scratte. Write a new Scrat adventure of your own. Start by drawing a storyboard.

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