

Dem Dinosaur Bones

Traditional, adapted by Marylee Sunseri (my best friend and musical partner)

I've been doing this variation of the traditional spiritual (Dem Bones) for many years, and it's always a favorite.

Why this song works and should be in everyone's song bag of tricks:

- ◆ It's simple, so anyone can sing it
- ◆ It's based on a familiar melody (research tells us we all learn best by attaching new information to something familiar
- ◆ It has a strong beat, which makes it irresistible
- ◆ Keeping a steady beat by slapping hands on thighs makes children focus
- ◆ It's adaptable: Use with or without pictures, sing in the car and have kids take turns naming their favorite dinosaurs
- ◆ It has a topic children are timelessly drawn to- dinosaurs!
- ◆ It employs the element of surprise, as children don't know what dinosaur will be next
- ◆ This song sparks creativity: the more you sing it, children will have their own ideas for modifications
- ◆ It's just plain fun- *and singing should be fun!*



NOTE: The “Hands up!” you hear me say after each verse on the recording is a little trick I came up with many years that always works to get kids’ attention. When kids want to stop and talk about each dinosaur, you can stop the song, and let them (great for building narrative skills). When you want to get them back into the song, just say, “Hands up!” and they magically put their hands up and are ready to resume the song. Try it- it really works!

Ideas for using this song:

- ◆ Simply sing this song, keeping a steady beat by slapping hands on thighs
- ◆ Hold up pictures to match the dinosaurs in the song [download here](#) (but keep slapping thighs!)
- ◆ Use your favorite dinosaur picture book, adding verses to the song as you go.
- ◆ Visit the library and check out a new dinosaur book to use!
- ◆ Older children can draw their own dinosaur pictures, give them names, and then sing about them

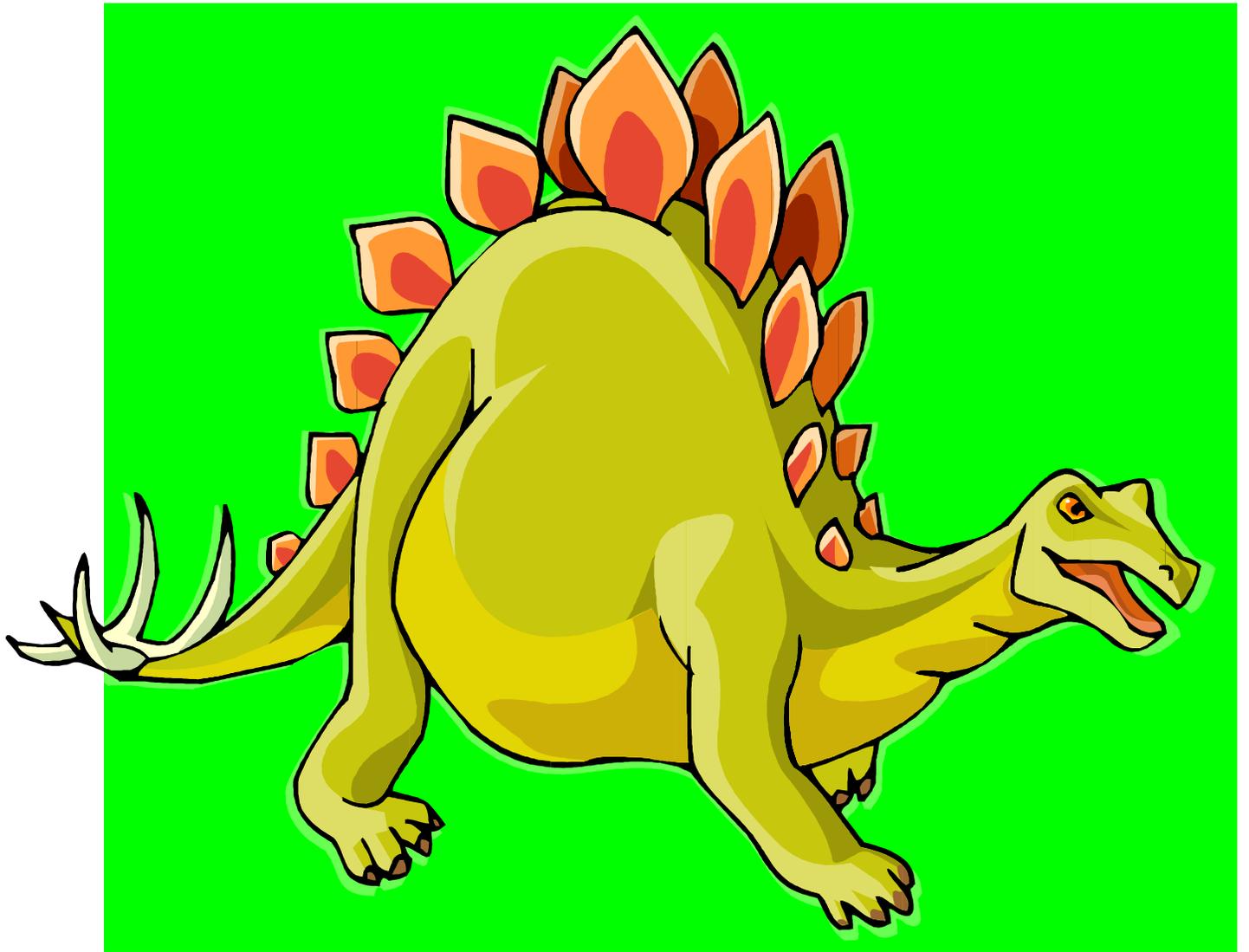
Dem Dinosaur Bones

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dinosaur bones
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dinosaur bones
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dinosaur bones
Put'em all together and this is what you get

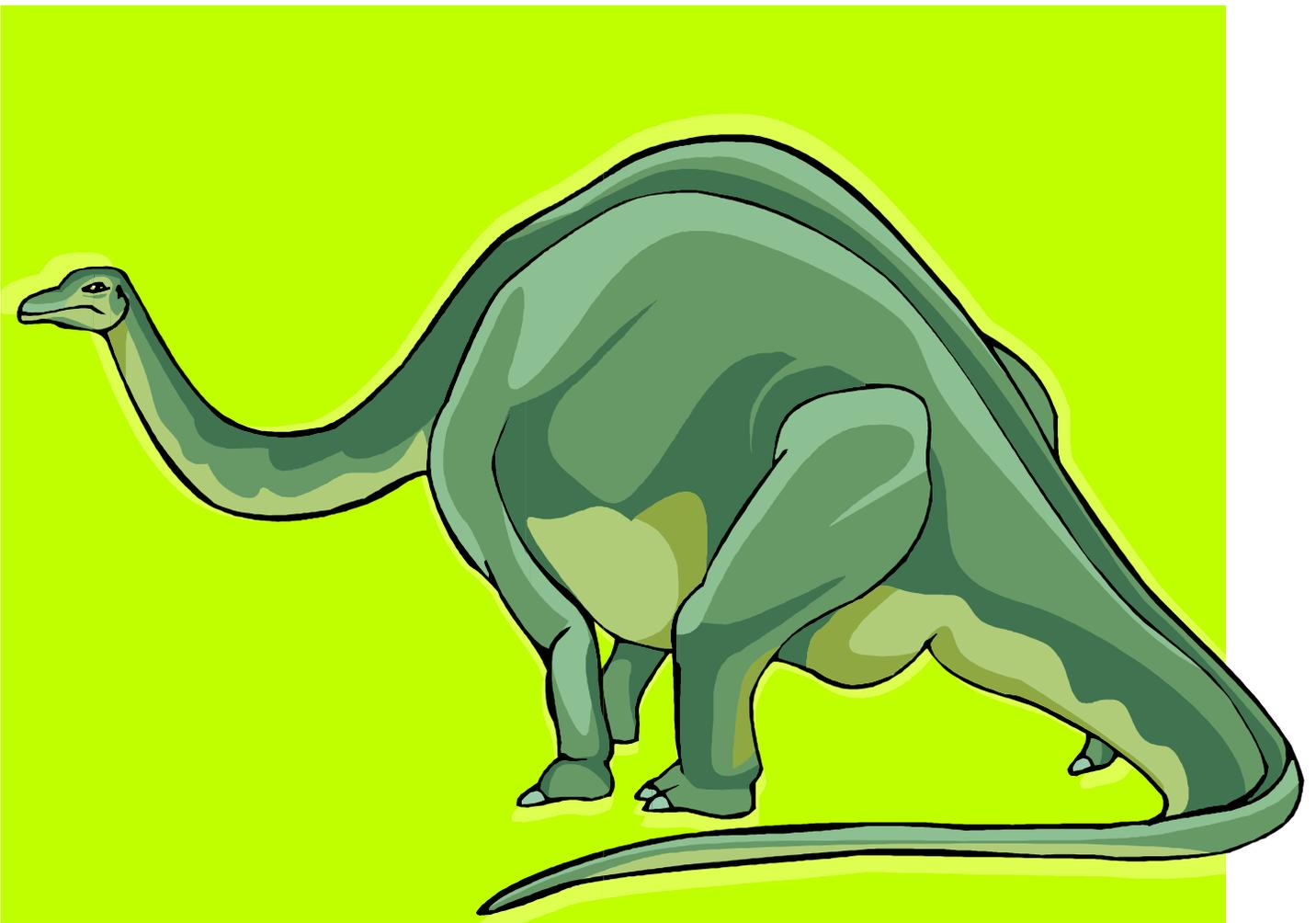
(hold up a picture of a dinosaur and have kids name it, or use without pictures)



**Tyrannosaurus
Rex**



Stegosaurus



Apatosaurus



Triceratops