

Abstract Submitted
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Kinematics from footprints: Analysis of a possible dinosaur predation event in the Cretaceous Era SCOTT LEE, University of Toledo — Motivation is enhanced by challenging students with interesting and open-ended questions. In this talk, a methodology for studying the locomotion of extinct animals based on their footprint trackways is developed and applied to a possible predation event recorded in a Cretaceous Era deposit.¹ Students usually love learning about dinosaurs, an unexpected treat in a physics class. This example can be used in the classroom to help build critical thinking skills as the students decide whether the evidence supports a predation scenario or not.

¹J.O. Farlow, “Lower Cretaceous Dinosaur Tracks, Paluxy River Valley, Texas,” South Central Geological Society of America, Baylor University, 1987.

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