Dinosaur Egg Patrol

HOST ONLY - preparation and story

Includes answers. Keep these pages and all hint pages with the adult host.

Welcome to the dinosaur survey camp. The field team must finish its careful survey before the nest path closes. Your team has the original records on the table. First recover five pieces of information, then use the final plan to reconstruct the nest survey. Keep every result beside its badge so another teammate can check your reasoning.

1. Print the six player sheets and two record sheets for each team. Keep answers and hints with the host.

2. Lay out Event cards, Departure windows (minutes after opening), the remaining clue sheets and the final plan. All task records are printed inside the sheets; no extra prop is needed.

3. After each clue, pass roles one seat clockwise. With two players, combine Reader with Recorder and Checker with Builder. With five or six, add a second checker and a source finder; everyone explains one decision.

4 players; 1 team. Give each team 6 player sheets and 2 record sheets. Share one host guide and one set of three hint levels.

Paper and pencils are enough. Keep whole sheets at one table; nothing needs cutting, folding or hiding.

Optional: 4 invitations or certificates, only if selected.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

HOST ONLY - solution guide

1. Order: D

The before relationships connect all four events. Place linked cards, check any immediate handoff and then read the specified position. Result: D.

2. Window: MID

Add job time and travel time to each printed start. Compare the sum with both that window's end and the deadline, then reject early starts. Result: MID.

3. Shell: 3

The only order is Read survey > Check shell > Mark nest > File card. Position 2 carries 3. Result: 3.

4. Load: 4

Remove 4 from 12; share 8 among 2 parcels to get 4. Check 2 x 4 + 3 = 11. Result: 4.

5. Label: 7

D1, A3, A3, B1 reads EGGS. The conversion table gives 7. Result: 7.

6. Final: C-A-E-B-F-D

The five recovered order notes link all six events. Arrange them into one continuous order. Removing any link leaves two neighboring sections without a known order. Checked result: C-A-E-B-F-D.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

HOST ONLY - timeline, story and ending

3 minutes: Read the opening. Show the evidence record and choose starting roles.

5 minutes: Solve Order. Offer one hint at a time and rotate roles after checking.

5 minutes: Solve Window. Offer one hint at a time and rotate roles after checking.

5 minutes: Solve Shell. Offer one hint at a time and rotate roles after checking.

5 minutes: Solve Load. Offer one hint at a time and rotate roles after checking.

5 minutes: Solve Label. Offer one hint at a time and rotate roles after checking.

7 minutes: Build the six-event run sheet using all five results.

3 minutes: Read the ending. Ask each teammate to explain one rejected alternative.

After Window: One time window can fit the work but fail the journey. Keep each order note beside its source. Pass the record sheet to a new checker before opening the next clue.

After Load: Four results are recorded. Each teammate points to a source supporting one result. Complete the fifth check before building the six-event run sheet.

Check every result using the solution guide. Offer the next hint only when requested; save the answer reveal until the group is ready.

The crew uses run sheet C-A-E-B-F-D; every recovered order note is respected. Thank each teammate for a different piece of reasoning.

Explain one tempting wrong choice and the evidence that ruled it out. Show how each of the five results affected the six-event run sheet. If a clue is missing, say what remains uncertain before reopening that sheet.

Duration and ages are estimates. Adjust the pace and offer help for your group.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 1: Order | Team 1

The field team must finish its careful survey before the nest path closes. We will use the records on the table to reconstruct the nest survey. Share the reading, explain each choice and keep the five results for the final plan.

Arrange the four event cards using every witness note. "Immediately before" means there is no event between them. Report the requested position after the whole order has been checked.

Event cards

A: Observe nest

B: Draw nest

C: Mark path

D: Count shells

Witness notes

D is immediately before B.

A is before D.

C is immediately before A.

Report the event ID in position 3.

Order result: _____

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 2: Window | Team 1

The team needs time for both the job and the journey. It cannot start before the earliest time, leave a window unfinished, or arrive after the deadline. Which departure window works? Times are minutes after opening.

Departure windows (minutes after opening)

EARLY: start 15; window ends 30

MID: start 25; window ends 40

LATE: start 35; window ends 55

Work and travel

Earliest start 20; job 7 min.

Travel 5 min; arrival deadline 40.

Job + travel must both fit inside one window.

Report the only possible window ID.

Window result: _____

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 3: Shell | Team 1

Shell desk: Combine every BEFORE rule to order the four actions. Write positions on the whole-sheet cards. Read position 2.

Check shell [3]	**File card [7]**
Mark nest [5]	**Read survey [1]**

Read survey BEFORE Mark nest

Check shell BEFORE File card

Mark nest BEFORE File card

Read survey BEFORE Check shell

Check shell BEFORE Mark nest

Read position 2 (positions start at 1).

Shell result: _____

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 4: Load | Team 1

Load desk: Every parcel has the same whole-number weight. Remove loose units, find ONE parcel and check the second rule.

2 parcels + 4 loose units = 12 units

2 parcels + 3 loose units = 11 units

One parcel = ? units. Whole numbers 1-9.

All parcels have equal weight.

Load result: _____

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 5: Label | Team 1

Label desk: Read the letter at each coordinate, in order. Letter = column; number = row. Convert the complete word using the printed table.

Columns: A, B, C, D. Rows: 1, 2, 3.

1	**D**	**S**	**K**	**E**
2	**J**	**M**	**Q**	**T**
3	**G**	**S**	**V**	**Y**

EGGS = 7

BONE = 0

CAMP = 3

READ COORDINATES IN ORDER:

D1 > A3 > A3 > B1

Label result: _____

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Player clue 6: Final | Team 1

Each recorded result recovers one order note. Use all five notes to put the six named events in order. A>B means A happens before B. Write all six event IDs from first to last; check that every note is satisfied.

Use your results from: Order, Window, Shell, Load, Label.

Run sheet
A: Observe nest
B: Draw nest
C: Mark path
D: Close path
E: Count shells
F: Return card
Recovered order notes
Order: A=A>C; D=C>A
Window: MID=A>E; EARLY=E>A
Shell: 7=B>E; 3=E>B
Load: 4=B>F; 1=F>B
Label: 0=D>F; 7=F>D
Order rule
A>B means A happens before B. Use all five notes.
Report all six event IDs in order, with hyphens.

Final result: _____

Ask your host to check your final result and read the ending.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Hint level 1 - HOST ONLY

1. Order

Read the event letters and all three witness notes.

2. Window

Look at earliest start, each window end and the arrival deadline.

3. Shell

Find all the event cards and the before notes.

4. Load

Find the equal parcels and the separate loose units.

5. Label

Find the column letters and row numbers on the grid.

6. Final

Keep the five named results beside the final plan and find the key for each badge.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Hint level 2 - HOST ONLY

1. Order

Join immediately-before pairs as a block; other before notes set the direction between blocks.

2. Window

The journey uses time as well as the job; add both to the start of each window.

3. Shell

Connect cards linked by the notes; a card position is counted from the beginning of the completed order.

4. Load

Remove the loose units before sharing the remaining weight among equal parcels.

5. Label

A coordinate gives column first and row second; keep the printed coordinate order.

6. Final

Each badge controls a different fact, road leg, order note, pulse or habitat layer. Use the matching key exactly once.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Hint level 3 - HOST ONLY

1. Order

Try the remaining positions, then check every note against your full order before reading the requested position.

2. Window

Check all three conditions for each window. A slot can be long enough yet start too early or arrive too late.

3. Shell

Check every before relationship, then read only the requested position. The printed card arrangement is not the answer order.

4. Load

Find one parcel from the first equation, then substitute that weight into the second equation before recording it.

5. Label

Read the full word before using the conversion table. If the word is missing, recheck each row and column rather than choosing a similar word.

6. Final

Check the completed product against all five recovered facts. If two answers remain, locate the fact that distinguishes them rather than guessing.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Team 1 result record

Write the complete result from each clue. Results can be words, routes, orders, settings or numbers.

Order: _____

Window: _____

Shell: _____

Load: _____

Label: _____

Keep this record beside the final clue. Copy results exactly, including any leading zero.

Reader / Recorder / Evidence checker / Route or model builder

After each clue, pass roles one seat clockwise. With two players, combine Reader with Recorder and Checker with Builder. With five or six, add a second checker and a source finder; everyone explains one decision.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Team 1 final result and celebration

Our final challenge: Final

We combined our earlier clues to decide:

_____

_____

We know it works because:

_____

_____

Host: compare the result with your solution guide. Read the ending when it matches, then let the team explain one discovery.

No physical lock or prize is required. Draw a celebration star here if you like.

Dinosaur Egg Patrol

You're invited to a mystery!

Join Birthday Explorer for Dinosaur Egg Patrol.

The field team must finish its careful survey before the nest path closes. Work together to reconstruct the nest survey.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Bring your curiosity. Paper and pencils are provided. Share ideas and solve six clues together.

Designed for ages 8-10. Estimated 35-50 minutes.

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Dinosaur Egg Patrol

Mystery Explorer

Presented to Birthday Explorer

Team member: _____

For completing Dinosaur Egg Patrol with curiosity, teamwork and kindness.

The crew uses run sheet C-A-E-B-F-D; every recovered order note is respected. Thank each teammate for a different piece of reasoning.

Date: _____

Host signature: _____

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