

DINOSAUR FACT FILE

PTERANODON

“ ter-AN-oh-don ”

MEANS

Winged and
toothless

PERIOD

Late Cretaceous

SUBORDER

Pterodactyloidea

TIMESPAN

86—71
million years ago

FOUND

England, Europe,
North America,
USA

LENGTH

Up to 2m

DIET

Carnivorous



Despite being strongly associated with dinosaurs by the general public, the *Pteranodon* was not actually a dinosaur. This prehistoric creature was a flying reptile and a close relative to the dinosaurs.

It is believed that the diet of *Pteranodon* consisted of fish due to several discoveries of fossilised fish remains in and around *Pteranodon* specimens.

Pteranodon's wingspan is longer than that of any known bird, at a whopping 6 metres in length! It had a crest on its head, a toothless beak, and a very short tail.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

TRICERATOPS

“ tri-SERRA-tops”

MEANS

Three-horned
face

PERIOD

Upper Cretaceous

SUBORDER

Ceropoda

TIMESPAN

67-65
million years ago

FOUND

USA

LENGTH

Up to 9 m

DIET

Herbivorous



Triceratops is recognisable by its three horns and frill-like bony plate. It has been suggested that *Triceratops* used their frills and horns as defence against predators and/or to regulate their body temperatures. However, researchers believe that their frills most likely served a visual communication function.

Triceratops is regarded to have been one of the more dominant herbivores of its time. They have parrot-like beaks for cropping vegetation, many cheek teeth and a powerful jaw ideal for chewing tough plants.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

SINOSAUROPTERYX

“ Sine-o-sawr-OP-ter-iks ”

MEANS
First Chinese
Dragon Feather
PERIOD

Late Jurassic to
Ealy Cretaceous

SUBORDER
Theropoda

TIMESPAN
130-125
million years ago

FOUND
China, Europe

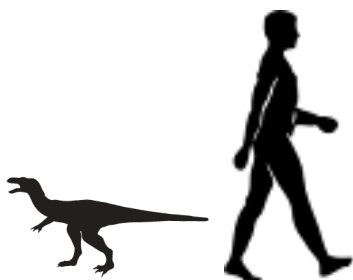
LENGTH
Up to 1m

DIET
Carnivorous



Sinosauropteryx was first discovered by farmers in Liaoning Province in 1996. Its name means ‘First Chinese dragon feather’, in reference to the fact that this fossil was the first dinosaur found with evidence of feathers. Significantly, it is also the first dinosaur that scientists have been able to identify the colour of.

Sinosauropteryx was covered with delicate hair-like orange feathers, which were up to 3cm long. The colour was discovered using an electron microscope to examine fossilised “melanosomes” - tiny structures within the feathers that give them colour.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

ORNITHOLESTES

“ Or-NITH-oh-LESS-teez ”

MEANS

Bird Robber

PERIOD

Late Jurassic

SUBORDER

Theropoda

TIMESPAN

150—145
million years ago

FOUND

USA

LENGTH

Up to 2.5 m

DIET

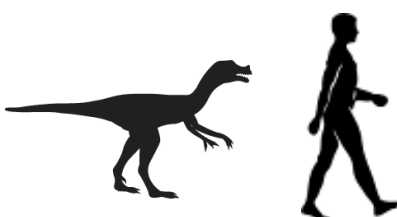
Carnivorous



To date, *Ornitholestes* is known only from a single partial skeleton and badly crushed skull, necessitating a large amount of guesswork about this dinosaur's habits and appearance.

Scientists believe that *Ornitholestes* was a swift, small-headed, long-tailed dinosaur that probably ate lizards and other small game that it caught with its long fingered hands.

A partial skeleton including the skull and jaw of *Ornitholestes* was discovered in 1900 at Bone Cabin Quarry in Wyoming, USA, where *Apatosaurus*, *Stegosaurus* and other Jurassic period dinosaurs have been found.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

ORNITHOMIMUS

“ Or-NITH-uh-MY-mus ”

MEANS
Bird Mimic
PERIOD
Late Cretaceous
SUBORDER
Theropoda
TIMESPAN
75—65
million years ago
FOUND
Canada,
Mongolia, USA
LENGTH
Up to 4.6 m
DIET
Omnivorous



Although its head was small, *Ornithomimus* possessed a large braincase and is considered to be one of the most intelligent of the dinosaurs.

Ornithomimus walked on two long, slender legs. It was a fast, agile dinosaur, probably running up to 70kph—the same speed as an ostrich.

Ornithomimus had a toothless beak, which scientists believe indicates an omnivorous diet—one that consisted of both meat and plants.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

STEGOSAURUS

“ STEG-oh-SORE-us ”

MEANS
Roof lizard

PERIOD
Upper Jurassic

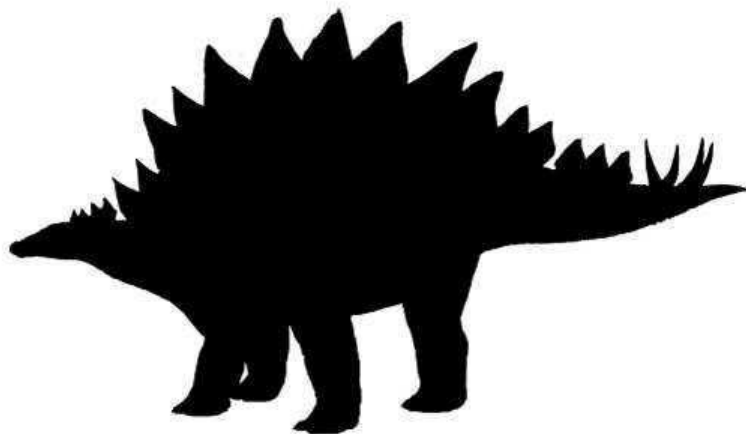
SUBORDER
Thyreophora

TIMESPAN
155-144
million years ago

FOUND
USA

LENGTH
Up to 9 m

DIET
Herbivorous

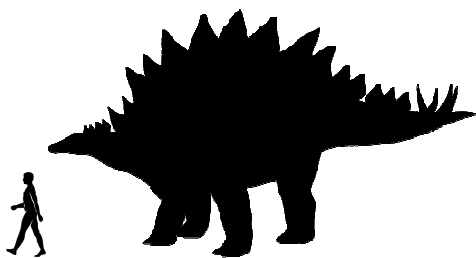


Stegosaurus' array of **spikes** and kite-shaped **plates** were most likely used for **defence** and to control **body temperature**.

The brain case of *Stegosaurus* was very small, no larger than that of a dog. This animal weighed **over 4.5 tonnes** yet its **brain** weighed no more than **80 grams!**

Initially *Stegosaurus*' **plates** were thought to lie **flat** along the back like armour, hence the meaning of its name.

Palaeontologists believe *Stegosaurus* would have eaten **plants** and swallowed **gastroliths** (rocks or grit). Gastroliths assist the stomach to **grind** up food, compensating for limited chewing ability.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

TYRANNOSAURUS

“ tie-RAN-oh-sore-us ”

MEANS
Tyrant lizard

PERIOD
Upper Cretaceous

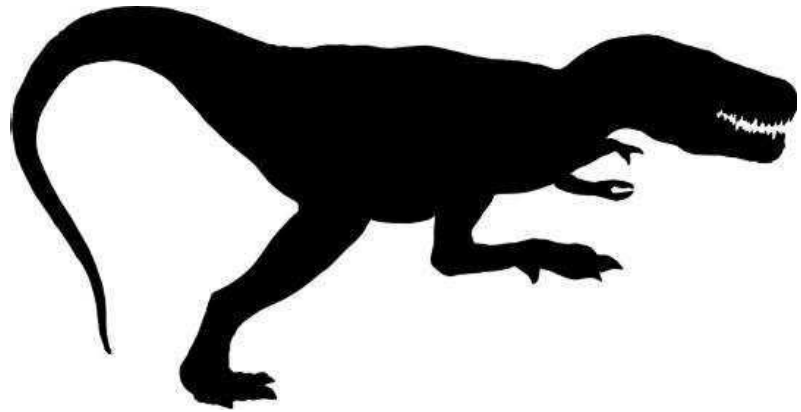
SUBORDER
Theropoda

TIMESPAN
67-65
million years ago

FOUND
Canada, USA

LENGTH
Up to 12-13 m

DIET
Carnivorous

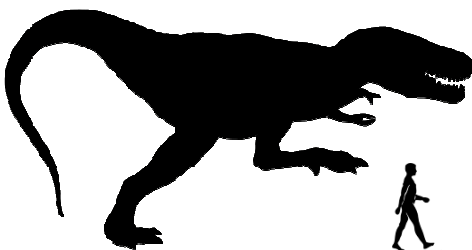


Whilst other **theropods** exceeded *Tyrannosaurus* in size, it was the largest known **tyrannosaurid** and by far the **largest carnivore** in its **environment**.

It is generally accepted that this genus was an apex predator (sitting at the top of the food chain).

Tyrannosaurus moved on two powerful legs with bird-like feet and three large, clawed toes.

‘**Sue**’ is the **most complete** *Tyrannosaurus* fossil skeleton ever found (85%). Preparators spent **30,000 hours** removing rock from her bones!



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

VELOCIRAPTOR

“ vel-OSS-ee-rap-tor ”

MEANS

Quick plunderer

PERIOD

Upper Cretaceous

SUBORDER

Theropoda

TIMESPAN

88-80
million years ago

FOUND

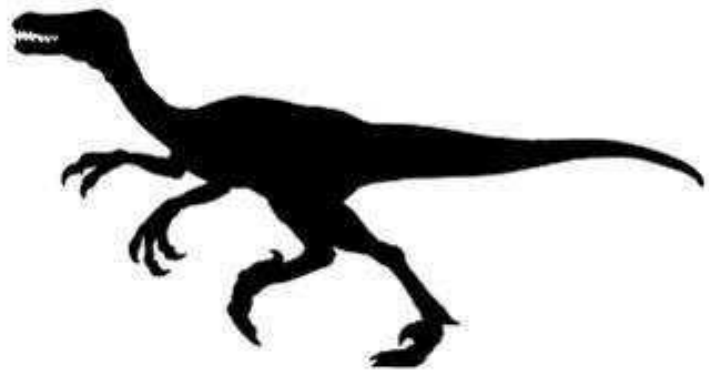
Mongolia

LENGTH

Up to 1.8 m

DIET

Carnivorous



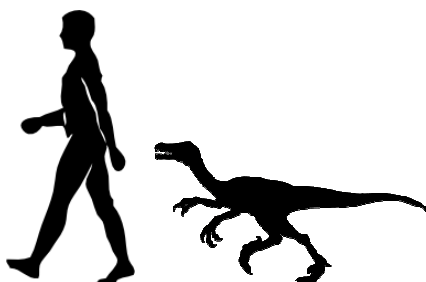
The *Velociraptor* is commonly referred to as a ‘raptor’.

Steven Spielberg’s raptors in **Jurassic Park** are more closely modelled on the *Velociraptor*’s larger **relative**, the *Deinonychus*.

In reality *Velociraptor* was:

- Only up to **1.8m in length**.
- To some extent, covered in **feathers**.
- **Unlikely** to be a cunning **pack-hunter**.
- **NOT** more **intelligent** than whales.

They were probably less intelligent than today’s big cats, but smart by dinosaur standards.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

APATOSAURUS

“ ah-PAT-oh-sore-us ”

MEANS

Deceptive lizard

PERIOD

Upper Jurassic

SUBORDER

Sauropodomorpha

TIMESPAN

154-145
million years ago

FOUND

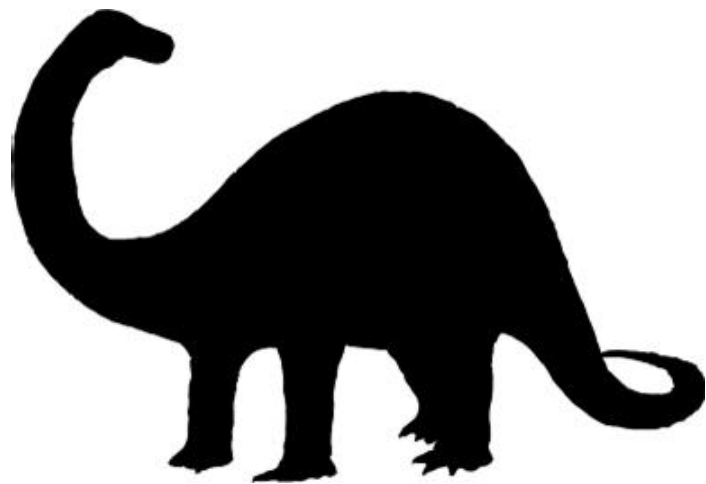
USA

LENGTH

Up to 21 m

DIET

Herbivorous



Apatosaurus was one of the largest animals that has ever lived, with an estimated adult weight of **at least 23 tonnes!**

Fossilised footprints indicate that this **genus** probably lived in **herds** that grazed on **land**. *Apatosaurus* used its **long tail** to **balance** the weight of its **elongated neck**.

A scientist mistakenly believed some *Apatosaurus* bones were evidence of a new genus and species which he called Brontosaurus. *Apatosaurus* is the correct name since it was named first.

