

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

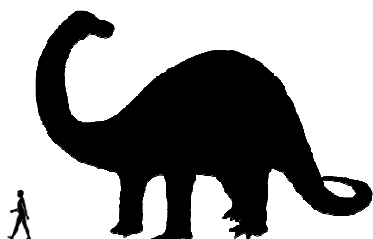
DIET
Herbivorous



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.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

GASOSAURUS

“gas-oh-SORE-us”

MEANS
Gas lizard

PERIOD
Middle Jurassic

SUBORDER
Theropoda

TIMESPAN
170-160
million years ago

FOUND
China

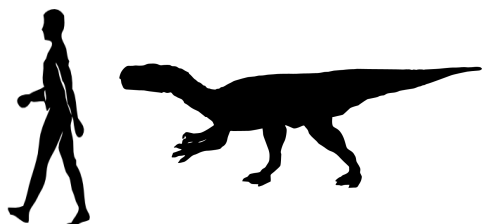
LENGTH
Up to 4 m

DIET
Carnivorous



The first and, to date, only *Gasosaurus* fossils were discovered in Dashanpu, China. Employees of a gasoline company discovered the fossils. In turn, *Gasosaurus* (which means gas lizard) was named in honour of them.

Very few fossils were retrieved from this discovery and unfortunately, evidence of *Gasosaurus*' skull was never found. For these reasons, very little is known about this dinosaur.



From the evidence available, researchers can gather that *Gasosaurus* had similar features to other theropods: *Gasosaurus* had powerful jaws, large teeth, short arms and it moved on two strong legs.

DINOSAUR FACT FILE

HUANYANGOSAURUS

“ hoy-YANG-oh-SORE-us ”

MEANS
Huayang Lizard

PERIOD
Middle Jurassic

SUBORDER
Thyreophora

TIMESPAN
140-110
Million years ago

FOUND
China

LENGTH
Up to 4.5 m

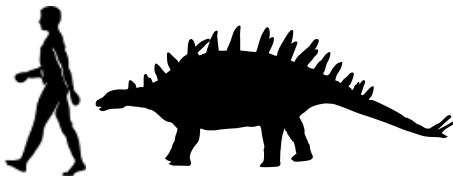
DIET
Herbivorous



Huayangosaurus is closely related to *Stegosaurus*, however *Huayangosaurus* was much smaller. Growing up to 4.5 metres in length, it was one of the smallest known stegosaurians.

Huayangosaurus had two rows of triangular spike-like plates on its back and spikes on its tail. Since *Huayangosaurus* was relatively small, two large spikes above its hips were possibly used to deter attack from above.

Vein-like cavities in the plates may have helped this dinosaur to control its body temperature. Some researchers believe that these veins could change the colour of *Huayangosaurus*' plates. This may have functioned to intimidate predators or to attract a mate.



ALLOSAURUS

“ Al-oh-sore-us ”



MEANS
Strange Lizard
PERIOD
Upper
Jurassic
SUBORDER
Theropoda
TIMESPAN
153-135
Million years
ago
FOUND
USA, Tanzania
LENGTH
Up to 12 m
DIET
Carnivorous

Allosaurus was the apex carnivore of the Upper Jurassic period in the Northern Hemisphere.

Allosaurus had around 80 sharp, serrated teeth that shed easily, but were continually replaced, making them common fossils. Like other theropods, their forelimbs were short. They moved on two powerful legs with three hook-like claws on each foot.

Allosaurus is often depicted as a social dinosaur, however researchers suggest that they were aggressive to members of its own species and highly territorial.

Allosaurus vertebrae are different from those of other dinosaurs known at the time of its discovery, hence the meaning of its name.



DINOSAUR FACT FILE

VELOCIRAPTOR

“vel-OSS-ee-rap-tor ”

MEANS

Quick plunderer

PERIOD

Upper Cretaceous

SUBORDER

Theropoda

TIMESPAN

83-70
million years ago

FOUND

Mongolia

LENGTH

Up to 1.8 m

DIET

Carnivorous

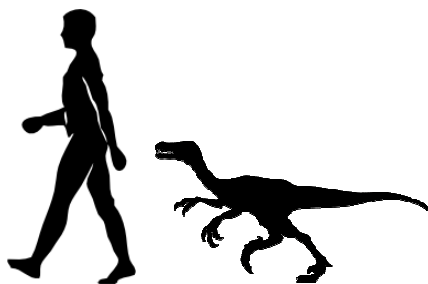


The *Velociraptor* is commonly referred to as a ‘raptor’.

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 **1.8 m 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

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

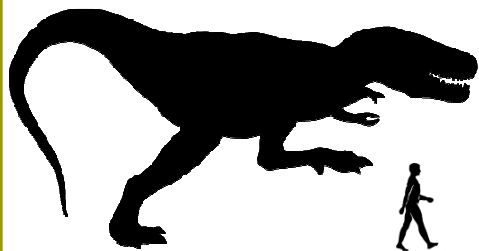


Whilst other **theropods** exceeded *Tyrannosaurus* in size, it was the largest known **tyrannosaurid** and by far the **largest carnivore** in its **environment**.

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

STEGOSAURUS

“ STEG-oh-SORE-us ”

MEANS
Roof lizard

PERIOD
Upper Jurassic

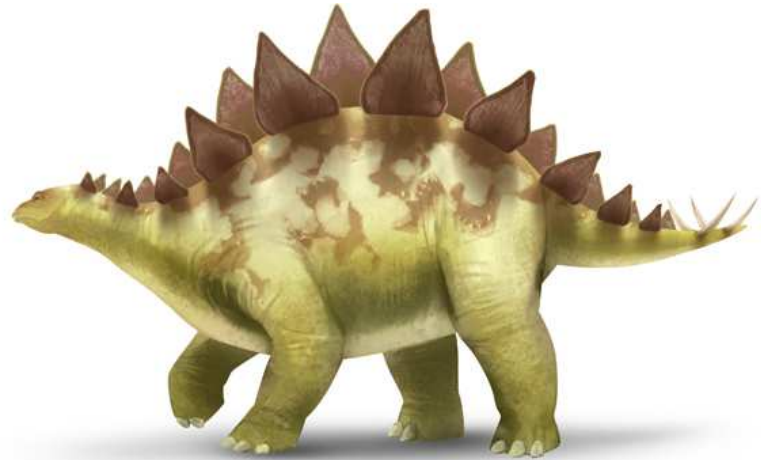
SUBORDER
Thyreophora

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.

