

Dinosaurs

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Dinosaurs - The Extinct Species



[Dinosaurs](#) are the largest land animals ever to have existed on our planet. They are a diverse group of animals that were the dominant terrestrial [vertebrates](#). They are represented on every continent by both [extant](#) species and fossil remains

The age of giant reptiles

Reptiles are descendants of first amphibians and appeared during the Carboniferous period (350 million years ago). Later, during the [Triassic](#) age (220 million years ago), reptiles diversified in order to conquer different environments and this produced marine reptiles, flying reptiles and land reptiles, to which the dinosaurs belong.

Mysterious [extinction](#)

Having ruled the Earth for 160 million years – far longer than humans who appeared a mere 2 million years ago, dinosaurs mysteriously died out, making way for mammals and birds who conquered the land, the sea and the air. This [mass extinction](#) is known as the [Cretaceous–Tertiary Extinction Event](#).

The life of Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs ruled on land, unlike the marine or flying reptiles that lived on Earth at the same time. All dinosaurs did not eat the same foods. Some were carnivores that ate meat while others were herbivores and ate only plant matter. Some may have been omnivores, eating both plants and animals. The [sauropods](#) were the largest dinosaurs.

Behaviour:

Interpretations of dinosaur behavior are generally based on the pose of body fossils and their [habitat](#), [computer simulations](#) of their [biomechanics](#), and comparisons with modern animals in similar [ecological niches](#). Overall it is believed that they are closest in behaviour to crocodiles.

Types of Dinosaurs

Herbivores

- Fed on leaves or plants on land or in the water
- Less aggressive

Carnivores

- Ate animals, including other dinosaurs.
- Very aggressive

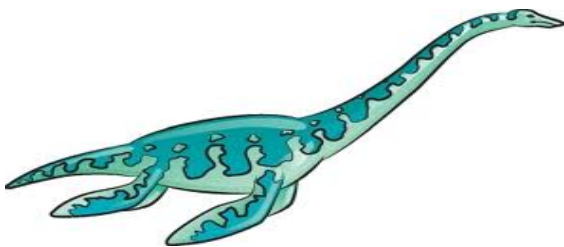
Omnivores:

- Ate both plants and animals
- Somewhat aggressive



Allosaurus

- Rises up on its hind legs before falling heavily on the neck of a baby brachiosaurus, which it seizes in its jaws.
- The air resounds with the sound of the two animals lashing each other with their whip like tails.
- Most terrifying carnivore!



Elasmosaurus

- Around 15 meters long, this was the largest warm-water marine reptile
- Traveled through the water, using its four long flippers as paddles.
- Long neck allowed it to fish by grasping fish with its teeth.
- Carnivore



Rhamphorhynchus

- Endowed with a long, narrow jaw with outward-pointing sharp teeth
- Long, thin tail ending in a diamond-shaped flap
- Carnivore



Iguanodon

- A herbivore
- Used its clawed fingers to defend it against carnivorous enemies.

Diplodocus

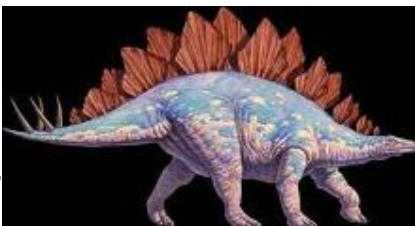


- A swamp herbivore, it was relatively agile and used its tail like a whip to scare off its enemies.



Triceratops

- Herbivorous
- 8 meters long
- Used its long horns to defend it from predators.



Stegosaurus

- 7 meters long and weighed 2 tonnes
- At the end of its tail were four spikes that it used as weapons of defense.
- Herbivore.



- Also known as “rapid thief”
- Less than 2 meters long.
- Attack its prey before tearing it apart with its curved teeth
- Carnivore



Brachiosaurus

- Tallest dinosaurs
- Higher than a three-story building.
- Its long neck earned it the nickname of “giraffe dinosaur”.

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Reference Links:

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- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB3sH0eBK_o&NR=1
- <http://www.search4dinosaurs.com/>
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