

## Digging for dinos

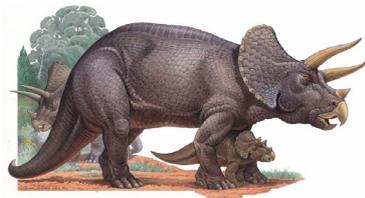
### 1 QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of *dinos* (dinosaurs).

- How many millions of years ago did dinosaurs die out? a) 65 b) 35 c) 8
- How many types of dinosaur were there? a) 30 b) 100 c) 700
- Label these three dinosaurs: *stegosaurus*, *tyrannosaurus rex*, *triceratops*.



a) \_\_\_\_\_



b) \_\_\_\_\_



c) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the words from the article with the definitions. The paragraph number will also help you find the correct word.

weighed brain plates shiny iron sticks species flood fossils lizard  
park ranger dominated down under displays shaking footprint skeletons

#### Paragraph 1

- making lots of quick movements \_\_\_\_\_
- remains of a plant or animal from a long time ago \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 2

- stays fixed like glue \_\_\_\_\_
- something with a bright surface \_\_\_\_\_
- a heavy metal that also exists in our bodies \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 3

- type of animal or plant \_\_\_\_\_
- was the most important \_\_\_\_\_
- a problem when there is too much rain \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 4

- flat pieces of bone that protect the body of some animals \_\_\_\_\_
- the organ inside your head that allows you to think and feel \_\_\_\_\_
- how heavy something was \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 6

- a mark in the ground made by a human or animal foot \_\_\_\_\_
- someone who works in a park to protect it \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 7

- nickname for Australia \_\_\_\_\_
- human or animal bones \_\_\_\_\_
- exhibits, objects on show \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 8

- small, green reptile \_\_\_\_\_

## Digging for dinos

### DIGGING FOR DINOS

by Mary-Lou Gray

1 You hear a sound. The ground is shaking. Something's coming. It's huge and it's hungry. It's a dinosaur – and it's coming to get you! Of course, things like this only happen in dinosaur films. No one has ever seen a live dinosaur because the last one died about 65 million years before the first people lived. But the dinosaurs are still around! Lots of people find dinosaur fossils all over the world.

We spoke to teen dinosaur experts about their work.

#### 2 Finding fossils

One of the world's biggest collections of dinosaur fossils is at the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum – in Tucumcari, in the US. Stephen Smith, Donny Price, both 15, and Carmen Runyan, 14, work on the museum's Fossil Friends programme.

**Donny:** In the museum there are more than 230 teeth – some of them 220 million years old! They're probably teeth from the earliest dinosaurs, called phytosaurs. If you touch a fossil with your tongue and it sticks, you know it's a bone. Dinosaur teeth are shiny but not white. They're different colours.

**Stephen:** Yes, they're a bit purple because of the iron in the ground.

#### 3 What is the coolest thing about dinosaurs?

**Donny:** Dinosaurs were the most successful species ever – much more successful than people. They existed for around 150 million years. We haven't lived for one million years yet and we already have so many problems!

**Carmen:** There were many different dinosaurs. When I was younger, I thought that all the dinosaurs lived at the same time. That's not true. Usually, one dinosaur dominated for a while and then they died – because of a flood, for example.

#### 4 What's your favourite dinosaur?

**Carmen:** The stegosaurus – it was one of the biggest dinosaurs. It had plates on its back.

**Donny:** The troodon – this dinosaur had the biggest brain for its size and was very intelligent. It lived 70-65 million years ago. The troodon probably weighed only as much as a five-year-old child – and could run 30 kilometres an hour.

**Stephen:** The seismosaurus – it was one of the biggest dinosaurs ever. When it walked, the ground shook!

#### 5 Dinosaurs were here

17-year-old **Nicole Cronkhite** lives in the dinosaur capital of Canada – Drumheller. Many different dinosaurs once lived there. "There's a lot that we don't know about dinosaurs," she told Spot on. "Nobody knows what colour they were, for example." Experts like Nicole learn more about dinosaurs every year. "I know a lot about how different dinosaurs lived. Some, like the

tyrannosaurus rex, lived alone. But others, like the triceratops, lived in families or groups. They all had different characteristics – just like people do. And some dinosaurs had feathers. This is amazing to me!"

#### 6 Walking the walk

Dinosaurs haven't walked on earth for more than 65 million years. But you can still find their bones, their teeth and even their footprints in most countries in the world.

**Toby Marlow**, 19, works full-time at Dinosaur Valley Park in the US state of Texas. This is where you'll find some of the best dinosaur tracks in the world. Toby is a park ranger, which means he spends a lot of time working in the six-square kilometre park and answering the visitors' questions about dinosaurs. Toby enjoys working at the park, and he loves the dinosaur tracks there. "Some of the tracks are more than a mile long," he says. "And the coolest thing about dinosaurs is how big they were."

#### 7 Dinosaurs down under

**Luke Woodley-Beattie** and **Anna Newton-Walters** are both 17 and live in Canberra, Australia. They have been working at the National Dinosaur Museum in Canberra for more than three years.

Luke gives museum tours to visitors and also sells fossils in the museum's shops.

The museum has 23 complete skeletons and more than 300 fossil displays.

Anna started learning about dinosaurs when she was five years old. Now one of her jobs at the museum is to organize dinosaur-themed birthday parties for kids. The kids have fun while Anna teaches them about dinosaurs. "I love my job because I'm helping children to become interested in science," Anna told us. "I believe science is one of the most important subjects you can learn."

#### 8 Dino facts

- Dinosaurs lived from about 230 million to about 65 million years ago. Modern humans have lived for only 150,000 to 200,000 years.
- The word "dinosaur" comes from the Greek words *deinos*, which means "terrible", and *saura*, which means "lizard".
- There were more than 700 different kinds of dinosaurs.
- Not all dinosaurs were huge – the microraptor was only 0.8 metres.
- Sue is the name of the world's biggest, most complete and most expensive tyrannosaurus fossil. Sue cost \$ 7.6 million.

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### 3 FIND THE INFORMATION

#### a) Fact file

Complete this website fact file, by adding the numbers below. Add two more facts from the article (with or without numbers) that you think are interesting. Can you find someone with the same facts as you?

0.8                      700                      30                      7.6                      150                      65

**FACT FILE**

**Best eight facts about dinosaurs!**

- The last dinosaur died about \_\_\_\_\_ million years before people lived.
- Dinosaurs existed for around \_\_\_\_\_ million years.
- The troodon was very fast. It could run \_\_\_\_\_ kilometers an hour.
- There were more than \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of dinosaurs.
- Some dinosaurs were tiny. The microraptor was only \_\_\_\_\_ metres high.
- The tyrannosaurus rex fossil 'Sue' cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million dollars!
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### b) Complete these sentences, using the superlative. Then check the article. Who says each sentence: Donny [D], Carmen [C], Toby [T] or Anna [A]?

Do you agree with sentences 1 and 5? Why (not)? Talk to a classmate.

1. Dinosaurs were the \_\_\_\_\_ (successful) species ever – much more successful than people. [ ]
2. The stegosaurus was one of the \_\_\_\_\_ (big) dinosaurs. [ ]
3. Phytosaurs were the \_\_\_\_\_ (early) dinosaurs. [ ]
4. Dinosaur Valley Park has some of the \_\_\_\_\_ (good) dinosaur tracks in the world. [ ]
5. Science is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ (important) subjects you can learn. [ ]

### 4 TEEN TALK

Cool. Read paragraph 6. Write the name of the person who said ...

*It's cool to know they once lived here.* \_\_\_\_\_

Cool means interesting or amazing.

Read the facts in 3a about dinosaurs again. Which is the coolest thing about dinosaurs in your opinion? Can you find someone who agrees with you?

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## 5 WRITE AN EMAIL

You visited one of the museums yesterday. Write an email to one of your friends.

## 6 WEBQUEST

Alone or in small groups, choose a museum about dinosaurs. Look on the Internet and find out. What exhibits can you see there? What activities can you do? What can you buy in the shop? Make a brochure. Present it to your class.

- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu>
- Natural History Museum: [www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/index.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/index.html)
- The Dinosaur Museum: [www.thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://www.thedinosaurmuseum.com)

### Other interesting sites:

- Dinosaurs for Kids: [www.kidsdinosaurs.com](http://www.kidsdinosaurs.com)
- BBC Walking With Dinosaurs: [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/prehistoric](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/prehistoric)

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### 7 DINO FACTS

In groups of three, find out about these three dinosaurs. Don't look at the other cards! Ask the other students questions and make notes. When you have all the information, discuss: *Which was the longest / earliest / most recent / coolest dinosaur?*

#### Student A

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was it?	_____ metres long	12 metres long	1.8 metres long
What did it eat?	plants and stones	_____	meat
When did it live?	about 157-146 million years ago	85-65 million years ago	about _____ million years ago
What was the coolest thing about it?	Its _____ was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It moved so fast, it could kill bigger dinosaurs.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

#### Student B

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was it?	21 metres long	_____ metres long	1.8 metres long
What did it eat?	plants and stones	meat	_____
When did it live?	about _____ million years ago	85-65 million years ago	about 85-80 million years ago
What was the coolest thing about it?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny _____.	It moved so fast, it could kill bigger dinosaurs.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

#### Student C

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was it?	21 metres long	12 metres long	_____ metres long
What did it eat?	_____	meat	meat
When did it live?	about 157-146 million years ago	_____ million years ago.	about 85-80 million years ago
What was the coolest thing about it?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It moved so _____, it could kill bigger dinosaurs.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

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### KEY

#### 1

- a
- c
- a) tyrannosaurus rex, b) triceratops, c) stegosaurus

#### 2

- shaking
- fossils
- sticks
- shiny
- iron
- species
- dominated
- flood
- plates
- brain
- weighed
- footprint
- park ranger
- down under
- skeletons
- displays
- lizard

#### 3

- a)
- The last dinosaur died about **65** million years before people lived.
  - Dinosaurs existed for around **150** million years.
  - The troodon was very fast. It could run **30** kilometres an hour.
  - There were more than **700** kinds of dinosaurs.
  - Some dinosaurs were tiny. The microraptor was only **0.8** metres high.
  - The tyrannosaurus rex fossil, 'Sue' cost \$ **7.6** million dollars!
- b)
- Dinosaurs were the **most successful** species ever. [Donny]
  - The stegosaurus was one of the **biggest** dinosaurs. [Carmen]
  - Phytosaurs were the **earliest** dinosaurs. [Donny]
  - Dinosaur Valley Park has some of the **best** dinosaur tracks in the world. [Toby]
  - Science is one of the **most important** subjects you can learn. [Anna]

#### 4

Toby

#### 7

Complete information:

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was it?	21 metres long	12 metres long	1.8 metres long
What did it eat?	plants and stones	meat	meat
When did it live?	about 157-146 million years ago	85-65 million years ago	about 85-80 million years ago
What was the coolest thing about it?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It moved so fast it could kill bigger dinosaurs.