



Exhibition

and

Dinosaur Guide

by

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£1.50

Welcome to our dinosaur exhibition

We really hope you enjoy visiting our dinosaur exhibition. The exhibition centres around the scelidosaurus fossil which we found here on the Jurassic Coast. This little guide will show you what the scelidosaurus was like when it was alive and will tell you about some of the other dinosaurs that lived during the Jurassic Period.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us make the exhibition and this fossil guide, especially Mary for helping us to prepare the fossil and for allowing us to use her shop.

Best wishes,

Peter & Tara

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Introduction to Dinosaurs

What is a dinosaur?

A dinosaur is a type of animal with scaly skin, called a reptile. The smallest dinosaurs, like compsognathus, were about the size of a chicken and the largest, like diplodocus were over 30 metres long.

When did they live?

Dinosaurs first appeared about 230 million years ago during the Triassic Period. They died out 65 millions years ago at the end of the Cretaceous Period.

Why did they die out?


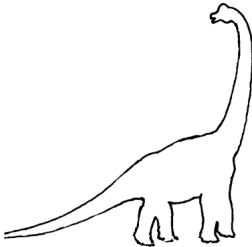
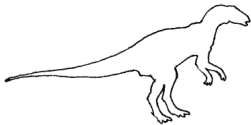

A huge asteroid (larger than the Isle of Wight) smashed into the earth 65 million years ago. Scientists believe it would have sent up huge clouds of dust and smoke, blocking out sunlight and killing the plants. Without food the dinosaurs would soon have died out.

How many types of dinosaur are there?

About 1,000 species of dinosaur have been discovered so far but more are being found all the time.

What are the different types of dinosaur?

Dinosaurs are grouped together into families with similar characteristics called suborders. Here are some of the common Jurassic suborders

| Suborder | Description | Example dinosaur |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Ornithopods (Bird footed) | Ornithopods commonly walked on two legs. They had beaks and no body armor. | Dryosaurus  |
| Sauropods (Lizard footed) | Sauropods walked on four legs. They were huge plant eaters with long necks and small heads. They lived at least 100 years. | Brachiosaurus  |
| Theropods (Beast footed) | Theropods walked on two legs. They were fast moving meat eaters with sharp teeth and claws. | Megalosaurus  |
| Thyreophorans (Shield bearers) | Thyreophorans were heavily armored plant eating dinosaurs. | Stegosaurus  |

Allosaurus

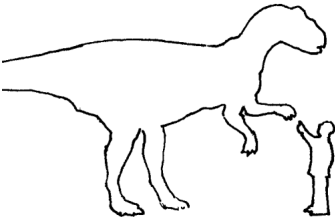


Powerful Predator

Allosaurus was one of the largest and most powerful meat-eating dinosaurs of the Jurassic Period. It walked on two powerful legs built for speed; they had strong muscles and heavy bones.

Although its arms were short, each finger on its three-fingered hands was armed with a sharp claw 15 cm long. Its enormously powerful jaws were filled with sabre-like serrated teeth. It may have hunted in packs to ambush the very large sauropods like Diplodocus.

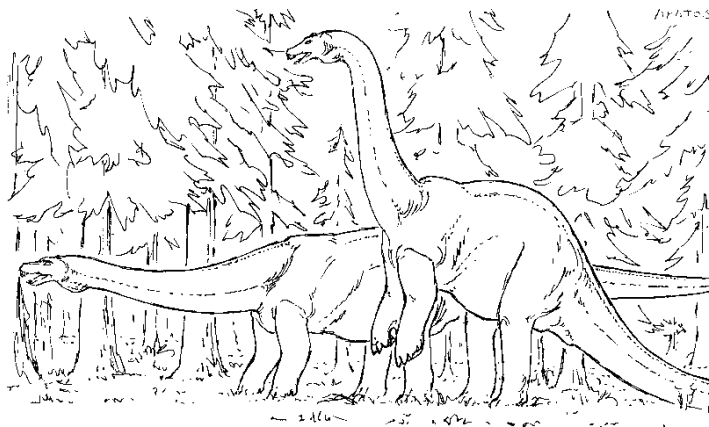
Allosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: AL-oh-SAWR-us Meaning: Different lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 12 m long Height: Up to 3 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 5 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Theropod |
| DIET | Meat eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 155-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

The name allosaurus means *different lizard* because of its unusual backbone, which is lighter than those of other dinosaurs.

Apatosaurus




Heavyweight Hulk

Apatosaurus was one of the largest land animals that ever existed, weighing more than four elephants! Its enormous size helped protect it from predators, which could not reach its head or neck.

It ate only leaves and plants, using its long neck to reach deep into the forest. Its tiny head had blunt pencil-like teeth, arranged like a garden rake and used for stripping leaves. It did not chew its food; instead, it swallowed stones to help grind up its food

Apatosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|--|
| NAME | Pronounced: a-PAT-o-SAWR-us Meaning: Deceptive lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 27 m long Height: Up to 5 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 35 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Sauropod |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 157-146 million years ago |

Did you know?

Apatosaurus' nostrils were located on the top of its head. No one knows why!

Brachiosaurus

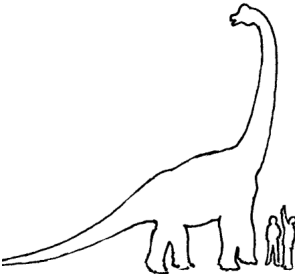


Tremendously Tall

Brachiosaurus was one of the tallest animals that ever existed. It had a very small head with 52 teeth. It spent almost all of its waking hours feeding - needing to eat about 200kg of food each day!

Brachiosaurus was so tall it needed to have a very powerful heart to pump blood up the long neck to its head and brain. Its blood pressure was probably four times as high as ours.

Brachiosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|--|
| NAME | Pronounced: BRAK-e-o-SAWR-us Meaning: Arm lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 25 m long Height: Up to 7 m tall (hips), 15 m (head) Weight: Up to 50 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Sauropod |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 156-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

Unlike most other dinosaurs, the front legs of Brachiosaurus were longer than the hind legs
- hence its name, *arm lizard*.

Compsognathus




Small and Smart

Compsognathus was one of the smallest known dinosaurs, about the size of a chicken. It walked on two long, thin legs; it was a fast, agile dinosaur with a long flexible tail, which helped it keep its balance.

Compsognathus had a small, pointed head filled with small, sharp curved teeth. It ate small animals, including insects and lizards.

Compsognathus

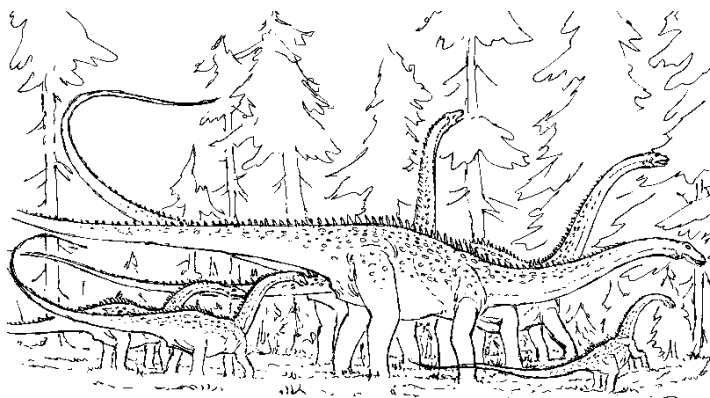
| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: KOMP-sog-NAH-thus Meaning: Elegant or pretty jaw |
| SIZE |  Length: Up to 1 m long Height: Up to 25cm tall at hips Weight: Up to 3 kg in weight |
| TYPE | Theropod |
| DIET | Meat eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 155-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

A compsognathus fossil found in the 1850s was the first complete dinosaur fossil to be discovered.

But scientists at the time did not realise it was a dinosaur - they thought it was too small!

Diplodocus

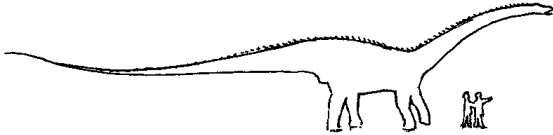


Terrible Tail

Diplodocus was one of the longest land animals ever to have lived. Its tail was 14 metres long with up to 80 backbones in it. If attacked, it used the tail as a whip, cracking it through the air to frighten predators away.

Underneath its backbone were extra bones running both forwards and backwards in the shape of an anvil. This 'double beam' gives the diplodocus its name.

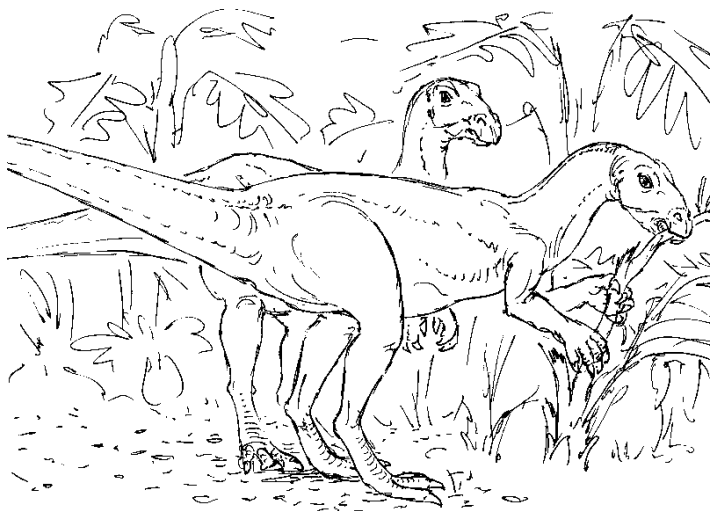
Diplodocus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|--|
| NAME | Pronounced: di-PLOD-o-kus Meaning: Double beamed |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 30 m long Height: Up to 5 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 20 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Sauropod |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 155-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

When diplodocus cracked its tail, the tip could reach speeds up to a thousand miles an hour! Oddly enough, it could not lift its head much higher than its shoulders.

Dryosaurus

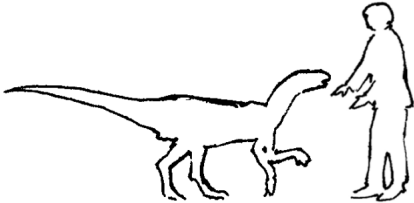


Rapid Runner

Dryosaurus was a fast, agile, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and long, thin legs. Running was its main defence against predators.

Dryosaurus had a horny beak, a toothless upper front jaw, and self-sharpening cheek teeth, which it used to eat leaves in the forest. It carefully laid its eggs in nests and cared for its young.

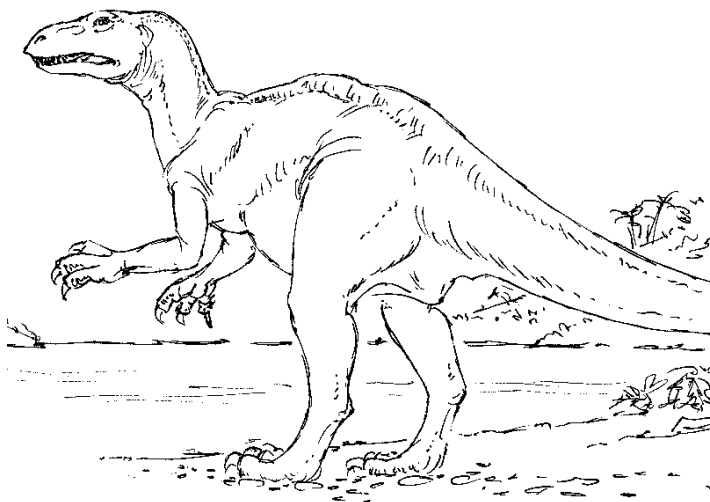
Dryosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: dry-oh-SAWR-us Meaning: Oak lizard |
| SIZE |  Length: Up to 4 m long Height: Up to 1.5 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 90 kg in weight |
| TYPE | Ornithopod |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 156-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

Scientists believe dryosaurus may have stored food in its cheeks. Dryosaurus means *oak lizard*, due to the oak like shape of its cheek teeth.

Megalosaurus

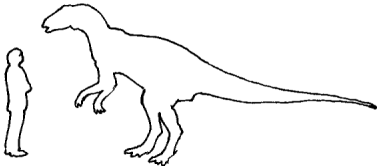


Mighty Meat-eater

Megalosaurus was one of the fiercest meat-eating dinosaurs of the mid-Jurassic. It walked on two powerful legs, had a strong, short neck, and a large head with sharp, serrated teeth. It could kill even large sauropods, although it often preferred to scavenge for its food.

A megalosaurus thighbone found in Oxfordshire in 1676 was the first recorded dinosaur fossil ever to be found. Many years later, in 1824, it was given its scientific name, from the Greek *megalo* - meaning giant and *saurus* - meaning lizard.

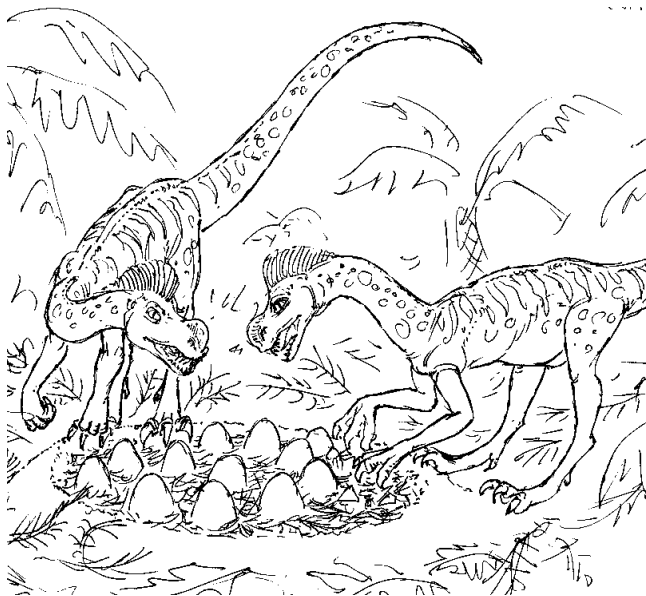
Megalosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: MEG-ah-loh-SAWR-us Meaning: Great lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 10 m long Height: Up to 3 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 1 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Theropod |
| DIET | Meat eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 181-169 million years ago |

Did you know?

Although megalosaurus was the first dinosaur to be found, a complete fossil has yet to be discovered!

Ornitholestes

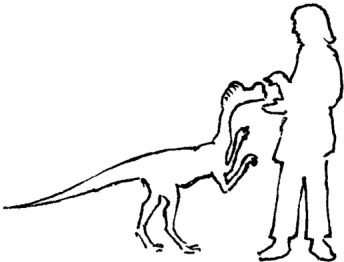


Egg Eater

Ornitholestes was a fast and agile dinosaur that walked on two legs. It had long grasping hands, vicious claws and its mouth was filled with many small, sharp teeth. It ate eggs and small animals such as lizards and mammals living in the forest. It was perfectly designed for hunting in the undergrowth.

Its long tail was used for balance and agility, allowing it to change directions quickly as it chased prey.

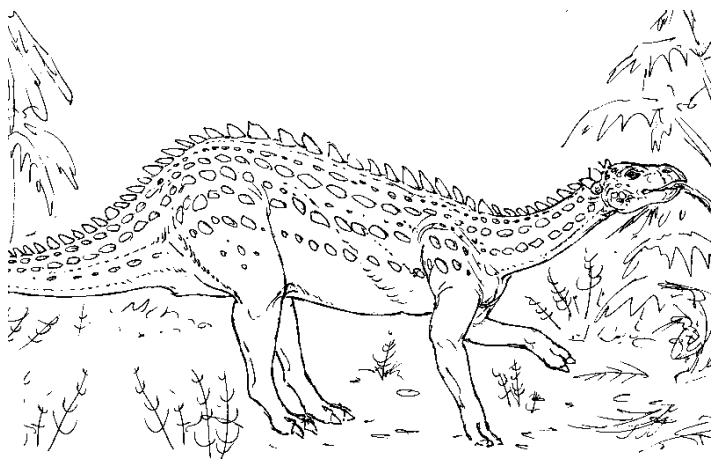
Ornitholestes

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: OR-nith-oh-LEZ-teez Meaning: Bird robber |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 2 m long Height: Up to 0.5 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 12 kg in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Theropod |
| DIET | Meat eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 156-145 million years ago |

Did you know?

Only one (almost complete) fossil of ornitholestes has ever been found!

Scelidosaurus

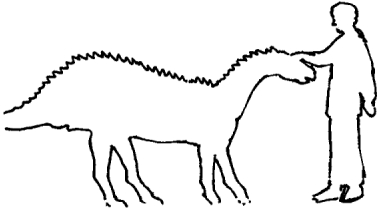


Peaceful Plant-eater

Scelidosaurus was a heavily armoured, plant-eating dinosaur with a small head, short neck, leaf-shaped teeth and a long, stiff tail. It had a small bony beak, which it used to rip off vegetation such as cycads.

Scelidosaurus walked on four legs but was able to rear up on its hind legs to reach tree branches.

Scelidosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|--|
| NAME | Pronounced: SKEL-eye-doh-SAWR-us Meaning: Limb lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 4 m long Height: Up to 1 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 250 kg in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Thyreophoran |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Early Jurassic, about 208-194 million years ago |

Did you know?

Scelidosaurus was the first complete dinosaur ever found.

Stegosaurus




Peculiar Plates

Stegosaurus was a heavily armoured plant-eating dinosaur, which walked on four legs. It had 17 bony plates running along on its back in two rows. Its name means roof lizard and comes from the fact that these bony plates look like roof tiles.

Stegosaurus also had spikes at the end of its tail to protect it. They are called thagomizers!

Stegosaurus

| FACT FILE | |
|-----------|---|
| NAME | Pronounced: STEG-o-SAWR-us Meaning: Roof or plated lizard |
| SIZE |  <p>Length: Up to 9 m long Height: Up to 2.75 m tall at hips Weight: Up to 3 tonnes in weight</p> |
| TYPE | Thyreophoran |
| DIET | Plant eater |
| PERIOD | Late Jurassic, about 156-140 million years ago |

Did you know?

Stegosaurus had a very tiny brain
- it was only the size of a walnut!