

Millions of years ago, before the existence of people, dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Many children try to educate themselves about these creatures.

1. How Many Species

- There has been 700 species of dinosaurs identified as of 2009, and paleontologists (people who study the time of dinosaurs) believe there are many more waiting to be discovered.

Size

- The largest dinosaurs were over 100 feet long and 50 feet tall, and the smallest were about the size of a chicken.

The Fiercest Dinosaur



- Utahraptor

It is believed that the Utahraptor was the fiercest species of dinosaurs. This species was about 23 feet long and 7 feet tall.

Food

- About sixty-five percent of dinosaurs were herbivores (meaning they only ate plants). Other dinosaurs were carnivores, meaning they ate meat.

Extinction

- It is believed that two massive destructions took place that caused the dinosaurs to become extinct. The first was a meteorite landing in what is now called the Yucatan Peninsula, and the second being a volcanic eruption in what is now called India.

How the Dinosaur Got Its Name

- The word dinosaur was coined by Sir Richard Owen in 1842. It literally means "terrible lizard."

EHow Family: Facts about Dinosaurs for Kids

http://www.ehow.com/facts_5008113_facts-dinosaurs-kids.html

(Page one of two)

Dinosaur Facts

Interesting dinosaur facts you didn't know you didn't know!

Dinosaur Fact #1: What is a Dinosaur? When scientists talk of dinosaurs, they mean a special kind of creature that lived on land during the Triassic, Jurassic, or Cretaceous period. But a lot of [people](#) say "dinosaur" when they mean any prehistoric creature, such as sea creatures or pterodactyls.

Dinosaur Facts #2: What are the Ages of Dinosaurs? They are Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. You can learn more about those on the [dinosaur history](#) page.

Dinosaur Fact #3: The Smartest Dinosaur was ... The [Troodon](#)! Scientists measure smartness by figuring out how big an animal compared to its body. This is called "encephalization quotient." Troodon wins! Even so, they think he was only about as smart as a modern possum. But for a dinosaur, that was pretty smart! [For more on smart dinosaurs see this article.](#)

Dinosaur Fact #4: The Dumbest Dinosaur was ... The [stegosaurus](#)! It had a [brain](#) as big as a walnut in a body [weighing](#) nearly two tons! "Dumb" isn't a nice word, even if it is a dinosaur fact. Let's just call Stegosaurus "less smart than a Troodon"!

Dinosaur Fact #5: The Fastest Dinosaur was ... Coelophysis and other Ornithomimosaurs. Scientists think these dinosaurs ran up to 30 miles per hour for short distances!

Dinosaur Facts #6: The Biggest Dinosaurs were: Saurpods. Seismosaurus was 165 feet long (it's tail helped!). Arentinosaurus was the heaviest at 100 tons. The Brachiosaurus was 39 feet high (which helped it reach branches in trees). [Giganotosaurus](#) was the largest hunting dinosaur, at 46 feet long and up to 8 tons!

Dinosaurs Fact #7: The Smallest Dinosaur was the [Saltopus](#). It was only 3 feet long, and weighed about five pounds.

Dinosaurs Fact #8: What Killed the Dinosaurs (Dinosaurs Cause for Extinction): No one really knows! Scientists have several theories:

- Meteor hits the earth!
- Lots of volcanic eruptions!
- Climate Changes (over a long period of time)

Dinosaur Facts #9: Are Dinosaurs Reptiles or Birds? Scientists now believe that dinosaurs may have been warm-blooded like birds, and not cold-blooded like reptiles. Scientists also believe that today's birds are actually dinosaurs, and that birds are reptiles?! Confused? [Here's a site that discusses it.](#)

Dinosaur Fact #10: Dinosaurs Lived on Land! Many prehistoric sea creatures lived at the same time as dinosaurs. However, they were not dinosaurs! [Kronosaurus](#) was the largest of all the sea reptiles. It grew to be almost 42 feet long.

Dinosaur Fact #11: Dinosaurs First Appeared: In the Triassic period, around 200 million years ago. A group of reptiles from the late Permian Period (archosaurs) became the best hunters on land. They developed special features in their skulls and how they walked (having an upright body with their legs under their body), which made them dinosaurs.

Dinosaur Facts #12: What do Dinosaur eggs look like? Dinosaur eggs are many shapes and sizes. Some are up to 16" long or more. But bigger eggs didn't always mean bigger dinosaurs. Some very large dinosaurs had small eggs. The first dinosaur egg fossils were found in France in 1869. Many dinosaur eggs found still have their original shells.

Dinosaur Facts #13: Why did Dinosaurs Look So Weird? Dinosaurs were around for millions of years. During that time they changed to suit their environment and conditions. Horns, plates, thorns, spines, long necks, claws, each of these served a purpose for that dinosaur. If you think about it, dinosaurs were around for a little more than 200 million years. Human beings have been around for about 120,000. Think how weird WE might look in another million years or so!

Kids Dig Dinos website

<http://www.kidsdigdinos.com/dinosaurfacts.htm>

Dinosaurs were reptiles and most dinosaurs hatched from eggs. Amazingly [blue whales](#) are bigger than any dinosaur found so far. The largest dinosaurs were over 100 feet long and up to 50 feet tall. The smallest dinosaurs, were about the size of a chicken.

No one knows exactly what noises dinosaurs made, what color they were or even when they lived. But scientist do have [theories](#) on these topics and you can find some of this information in our [links](#).

Most dinosaurs were plant-eaters (herbivores) about 65% of them. Some dinosaurs were meat-eaters (carnivores). Dinosaurs had many different distinguishing features that you can read more about when reading facts on each dinosaur.

No one really knows exactly how many dinosaur species exist. The estimates vary from between 250 to over 1300 species.

The term dinosaur (terrible lizard) was coined by the English anatomist Sir Richard Owen in 1842.

No one knows how the dinosaurs became extinct or even if they are extinct, but there are many interesting theories on the topic and you can read more about them from our [links](#) page.

by George Manty

Dinosaur Time Machine

http://www.mantyweb.com/dinosaur/dino_intro.htm

Dinosaur Facts for Kids

While dinosaurs came a long time before us humans, fossils and modern technology have helped us piece together what dinosaurs may have looked like and even how they might have behaved. Read on for a wide range of cool dinosaur facts that are perfect for kids.

- The word dinosaur comes from the [Greek language](#) and means ‘terrible lizard’. The word was coined by English paleontologist Richard Owen in 1842 and was meant to refer to Dinosaurs impressive size rather than their scary appearance.
- Dinosaurs ruled the Earth for over 160 million years, from the Triassic period around 230 million years ago through the Jurassic period and until the end of the Cretaceous period around 65 million years ago.
- The time period from 250 million years ago until around 65 million years ago is known as the Mesozoic Era. It is often referred to as the Age of the Dinosaurs because most dinosaurs developed and became extinct during this time.
- It is believed that dinosaurs lived on Earth until around 65 million years ago when a mass extinction occurred.
- Scientists believe that the event leading to the extinction may have been a massive asteroid impact or huge volcanic activity. Events such as these could have blocked out sunlight and significantly changed the Earth’s ecology.
- The first dinosaur to be formally named was the Megalosaurus, back in 1824.
- A person who studies dinosaurs is known as a paleontologist.
- Rather than being carnivores (meat eaters), the largest dinosaurs such as the Brachiosaurus and Apatosaurus were actually herbivores (plant eaters).
- To help fight meat eaters such as the Allosaurus or Spinosaurus, many plant eaters had natural weapons at their disposal. Examples of this include the spikes on the tail of the Stegosaurus and the three horns attached to the front of the Triceratops’s head shield.
- Pterodactyls are not dinosaurs, they were flying reptiles that lived during the age of dinosaurs but by definition they do not fall into the same category. The same goes for [water based](#) reptiles such as Plesiosaurs.
- Birds descended from a type of dinosaurs known as theropods.
- Despite being long extinct, dinosaurs are frequently featured in the media. One of the more memorable examples of this is Michael Crichton’s 1990 book Jurassic Park. Adapted to movie in 1993, the story features cloned dinosaurs brought to life with the help of DNA found in mosquitoes trapped in amber.

Science Kids website

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/dinosaurs.html>

Tyrannosaurus Rex



One of the largest dinosaurs that ever lived, *Tyrannosaurus rex* was a fierce carnivore. Scientists believe this powerful predator could eat up to 500 pounds (230 kilograms) of meat in one bite.

Image © National Geographic Society

Type: Prehistoric

Diet: Carnivore

Size: 40 ft (12 m) long; 15 to 20 ft (4.6 to 6 m) tall

Protection status: Extinct

Did you know? *Tyrannosaurus* means "tyrant lizard."

Size relative to a bus:



Tyrannosaurus rex was one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs that ever lived. Everything about this ferocious predator, from its thick, heavy skull to its 4-foot-long (1.2-meter-long) jaw, was designed for maximum bone-crushing action.

Fossil evidence shows that *Tyrannosaurus* was about 40 feet (12 meters) long and about 15 to 20 feet (4.6 to 6 meters) tall. Its strong thighs and long, powerful tail helped it move quickly, and its massive 5-foot-long (1.5-meter-long) skull could bore into prey.

(Page one of two)

T. rex's serrated, conical teeth were most likely used to pierce and grip flesh, which it then ripped away with its brawny neck muscles. Its two-fingered forearms could probably seize prey, but they were too short to reach its mouth.

Scientists believe this powerful predator could eat up to 500 pounds (230 kilograms) of meat in one bite. Fossils of *T. rex* prey, including *Triceratops* and *Edmontosaurus*, suggest *T. rex* crushed and broke bones as it ate, and broken bones have been found in its dung.

Tyrannosaurus rex lived in forested river valleys in North America during the late Cretaceous period. It became extinct about 65 million years ago in the Cretaceous-Tertiary mass extinction.

National Geographic website

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/prehistoric/tyrannosaurus-rex/>

(Page two of two)

T-Rex Facts

Name Means	"Tyrant lizard" <i>T-Rex is short for "Tyrannosaurus rex"</i>
Type	Predator dinosaur
Lived When	(70 million years ago)
Weight	Up to 7 1/2 tons
Height	2-3 feet high at hips (they would have stood head-to-head with an adult man)
Length	Up to 43 feet
Weapons	Massive jaws with 50 to 60 blade-like teeth, some up to 9 inches long!
<u>Diet</u>	<u>Meat</u>
<u>Habitat</u>	Open woodland
Interesting T-Rex Facts	<p>T-Rex's head was about 5 feet long. Its skull had holes in it which made it lighter and easier to carry around.</p> <p>T-Rex was one of the best known dinosaurs, but it didn't live all that long. T-Rex came along just before the dinosaurs became extinct.</p> <p>You often see T-Rex pictures with his tail stretched out behind him. He did this for balance.</p> <p>T-Rex had a very good sense of smell.</p> <p>When T-Rex ran, he could go 20 miles per hour and could cover 15 feet in one step!</p>

<http://www.kidsdigdinos.com/Dinosaurs/trex.htm>

Tyrannosaurus Rex



***T. rex*'s serrated, cone-shaped teeth were most likely used to pierce and grip flesh. Its two-fingered forearms could probably seize prey, but they were too short to reach its mouth. Scientists believe this powerful predator could eat up to [500 pounds](#) (230 kilograms) of meat in one bite.**

Everything about this predator—from its sharp claws to its serrated teeth—was designed for maximum bone-tearing action.

- Facts about [Tyrannosaurus Rex](#):
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- **Fast Facts**

Type: Archosauria

[Diet](#): Carnivore

Size: 40 ft (12 m) long; 15 to 20 ft (4.6 to 6 m) tall

Period: Late Cretaceous

Did you know? *Tyrannosaurus* means "tyrant lizard."

National Geographic Society

<http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/sites/kids/NGS/wpf/printcreature/tyrannosaurus-rex.html>