

LITTLE EXPLORERS

DINOSAURS

LIFT THE FLAPS
TO EXPLORE
THE DINO WORLD
INSIDE AND OUT!

T-REX

BIG TEETH

WINGS

PTERANODON

HORNS

GIANT SKULL

TWO FINGERS

TRICERATOPS

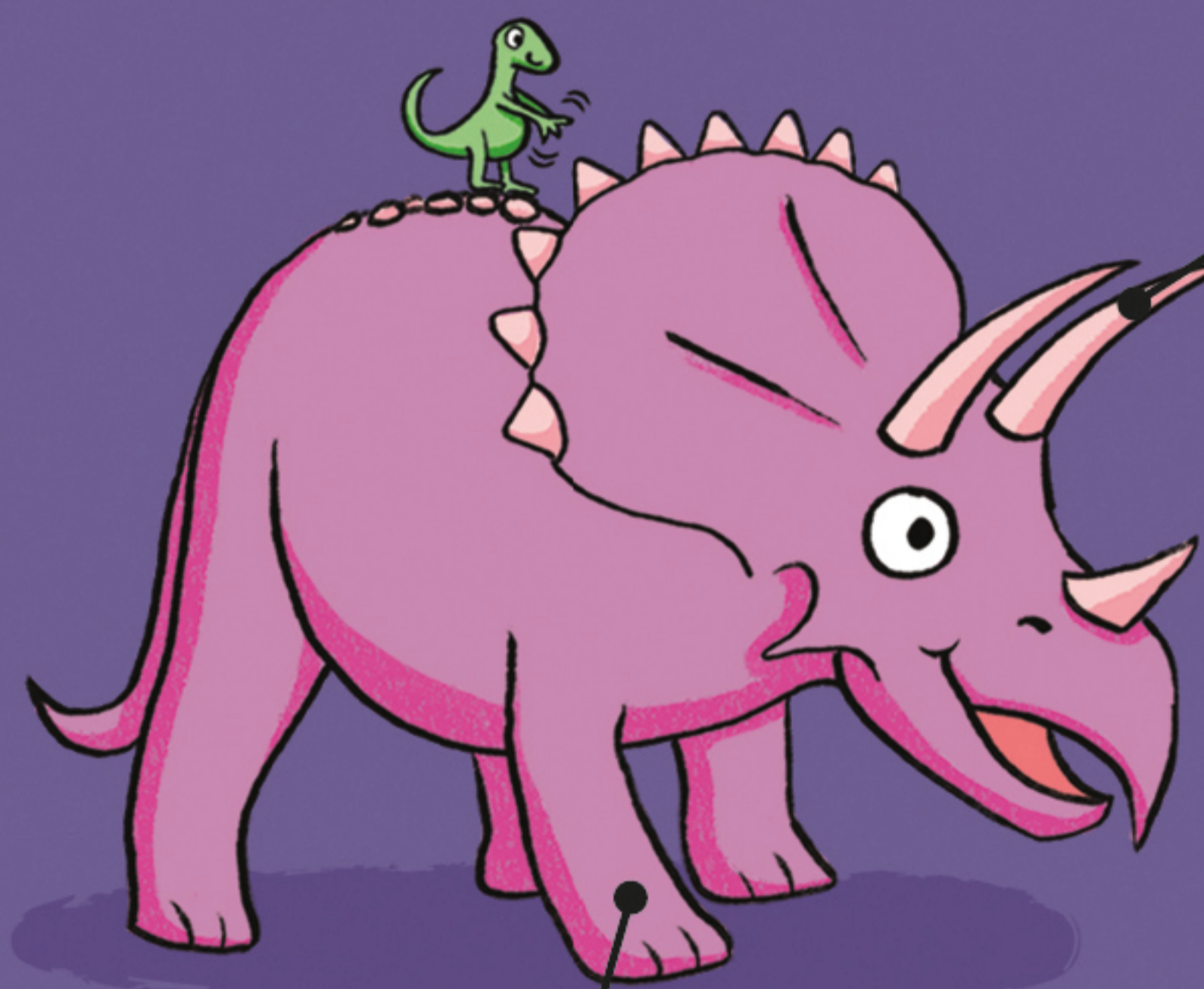


SHARP CLAWS

THICK TAIL

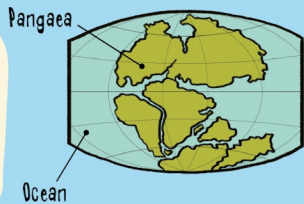
MORE THAN
30 FLAPS!

NEST



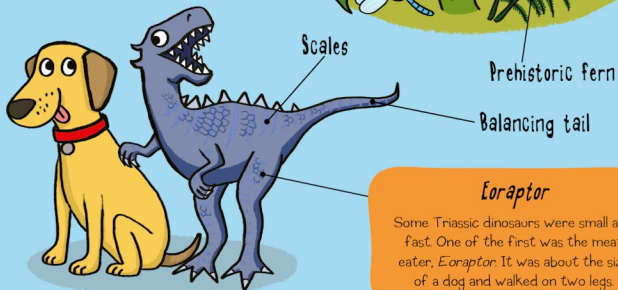
TRIASSIC TIMES

Dinosaurs first appeared on Earth in the Triassic period, which lasted from around 250 to 200 million years ago. At the beginning of the Triassic period the world was a very different place. The continents were joined together in one giant landmass, called Pangaea, which was surrounded by a vast ocean.



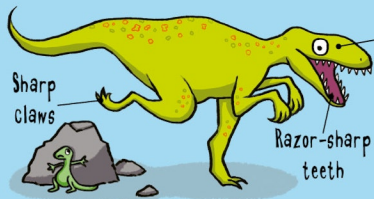
Prehistoric landscape

It was so hot and dry that most of the planet was covered in desert. The plants that grew were strange prehistoric ferns and palm-like trees, called cycads.



Eoraptor

Some Triassic dinosaurs were small and fast. One of the first was the meat eater, *Eoraptor*. It was about the size of a dog and walked on two legs.

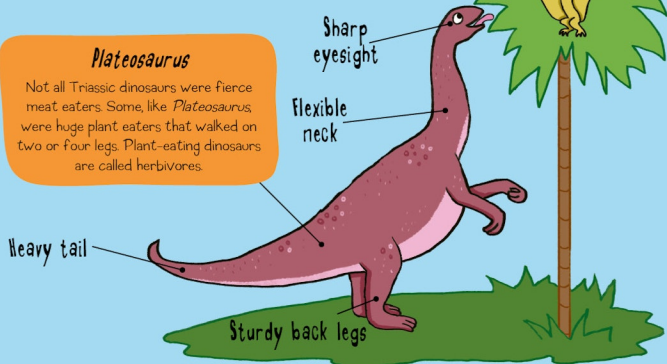


Herrerasaurus

This dinosaur was one of the largest predators of its time. It was as long as a car and weighed as much as a Nile crocodile. Meat-eating dinosaurs like this one are called carnivores.

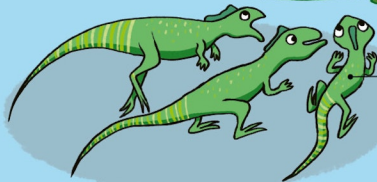
Plateosaurus

Not all Triassic dinosaurs were fierce meat eaters. Some, like *Plateosaurus*, were huge plant eaters that walked on two or four legs. Plant-eating dinosaurs are called herbivores.



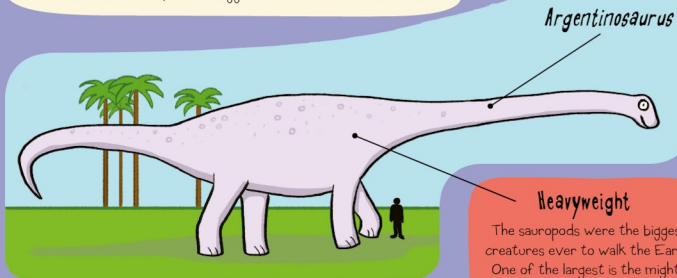
Liliensternus

These crested dinosaurs were ferocious fast-moving predators. They probably preyed on much slower dinosaurs, such as *Plateosaurus*.



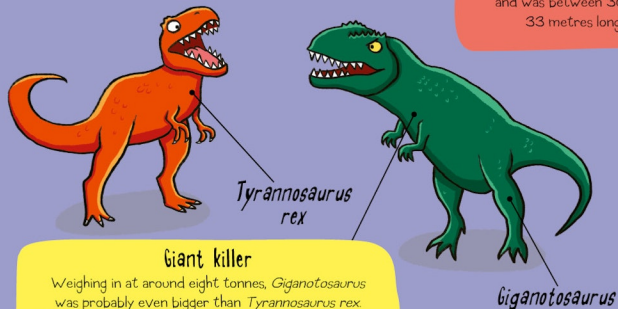
GREAT AND SMALL

Although we think of dinosaurs as huge, scary beasts, they weren't all giant predators. Some, like *T-rex*, were big and fierce, but others were small, and many of the biggest dinosaurs were herbivores.



Heavyweight

The sauropods were the biggest creatures ever to walk the Earth. One of the largest is the mighty *Argentinosaurus*. It weighed between 60 and 100 tonnes and was between 30 and 33 metres long.

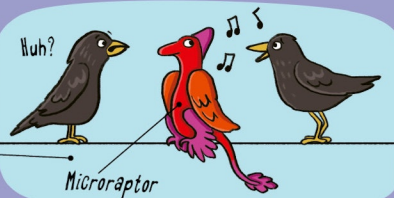


Giant killer

Weighing in at around eight tonnes, *Giganotosaurus* was probably even bigger than *Tyrannosaurus rex*. But even *Giganotosaurus* wasn't the biggest meat eater...

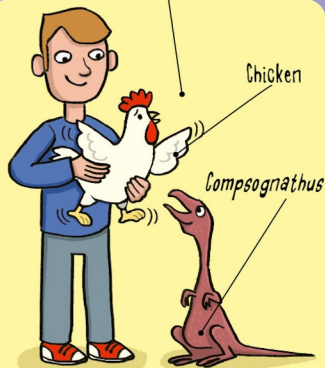
Pint-size predator

Some of the smallest dinosaur skeletons ever found belong to *Microaptor*. It was only about the size of a crow and had four wings!



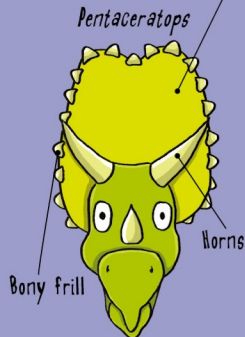
Tiny hunter

Tiny *Compsognathus* was one of the smallest dinosaurs. It wasn't much bigger than a chicken, but it was fast and deadly.



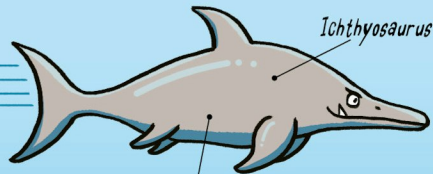
Big head

Some dinosaurs had enormous heads. *Pentaceratops*'s horned skull is a record breaker! This massive head, along with its horns, was used as a battering ram.



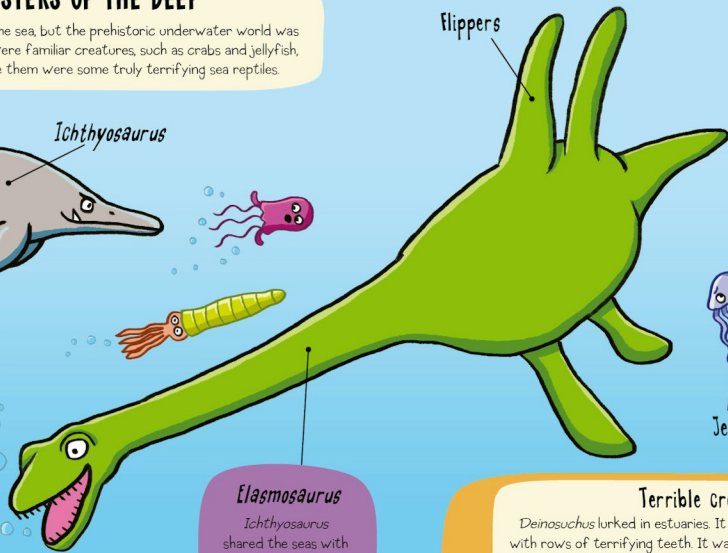
MONSTERS OF THE DEEP

Dinosaurs did not live in the sea, but the prehistoric underwater world was teeming with life. There were familiar creatures, such as crabs and jellyfish, but swimming alongside them were some truly terrifying sea reptiles.



Long and sleek

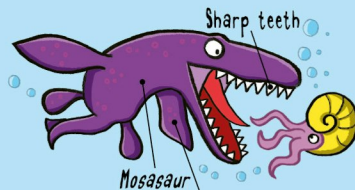
Ichthyosaurus was a torpedo-shaped sea reptile that looked like a modern dolphin. It was an amazing swimmer and a skilled hunter.



Elasmosaurus

Ichthyosaurus shared the seas with a marine reptile called *Elasmosaurus*. It had paddle-like flippers and a long neck, and was a slow, graceful swimmer.

Flippers



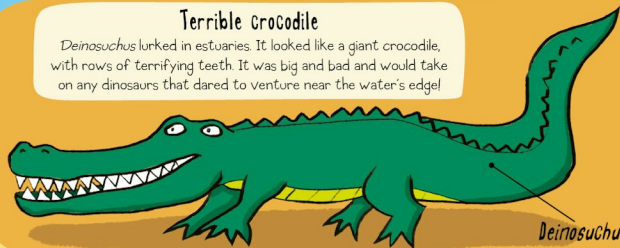
Giant killer

Mosasaurus were a group of fearsome sea reptiles. They had two sets of seriously sharp teeth and a mouth that was wide enough to swallow prey whole. The largest was 15 metres in length – that's as long as a double-decker bus!



Terrible Crocodile

Deinosuchus lurked in estuaries. It looked like a giant crocodile, with rows of terrifying teeth. It was big and bad and would take on any dinosaurs that dared to venture near the water's edge!

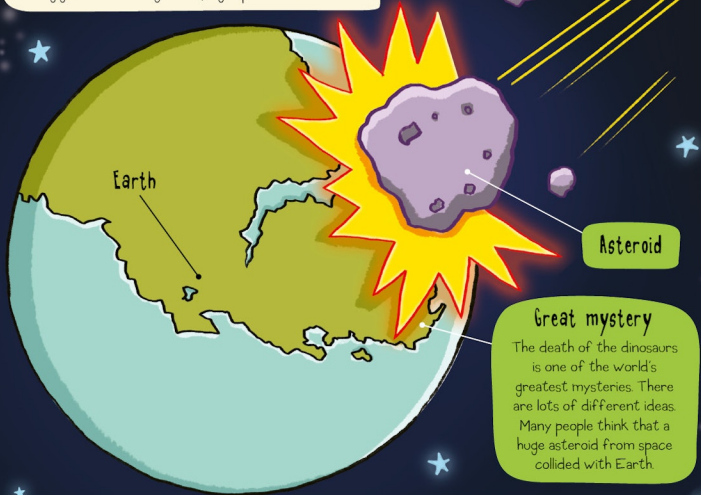


Crab



DEATH OF THE DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs disappeared from our planet about 65 million years ago. It wasn't just the dinosaurs that disappeared. The gigantic swimming and flying reptiles also vanished.



Asteroid

Great mystery

The death of the dinosaurs is one of the world's greatest mysteries. There are lots of different ideas. Many people think that a huge asteroid from space collided with Earth.

Dinosaur detectives

Luckily, we know a lot about dinosaurs from the fossilized bones, footprints, nests, eggs and droppings they left behind.

Dinosaur detective (palaeontologist)



Volcanic eruptions

Other scientists believe that volcanic eruptions might have released toxic gases that killed lots of plants and animals.



The survivors

Not all living things died. Smaller reptiles, birds and some plants survived. Even crocodiles managed to live through whatever happened and they are still around today.

SURVIVORS

Crocodiles



Birds



Lizards



Prehistoric fern

How fossils form

1. Fossils are formed over many thousands of years. The process begins when a creature dies.

2. The creature's flesh and skin gradually starts to rot away, but the bones are left behind. The remains are covered by sand or mud.

3. Many years pass and the sand or mud eventually turns to rock. The imprint of the creature is left in the rock. This is a fossil.

