

WRITTEN BY
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ILLUSTRATED BY
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LOCKED

IN THE

MUSEUM

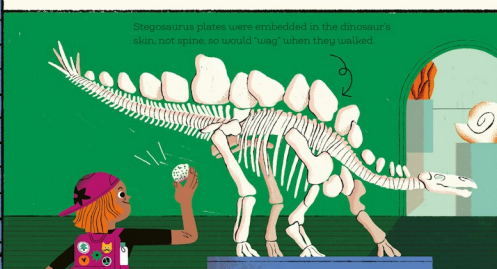
WITH SIX
PANORAMIC
FOLD-OUT
GALLERIES TO
DISCOVER

COVER NOT
FINAL

... THE MOST MARVELLOUS MISTAKE



Fifteen, sixteeee, se-ve-nteeeee. There are seventeen plates on a stegosaurus. That settles it then, you can tell Liam at school tomorrow that he was **WRONG**, and that clearly his brain is no bigger than a stegosauruses, which as it happens had a brain the size of a lime . You're still the undisputed champion of dinosaur facts.



Stegosaurus plates were embedded in the dinosaur's skin, not spine as you'd "naq" when they walked

As you look for the exit, you notice you've got the Dinosaur Gallery all to yourself.

In fact, it's eerily quiet in the corridor too.

Then, just as you reach the gift shop, the lights go out.

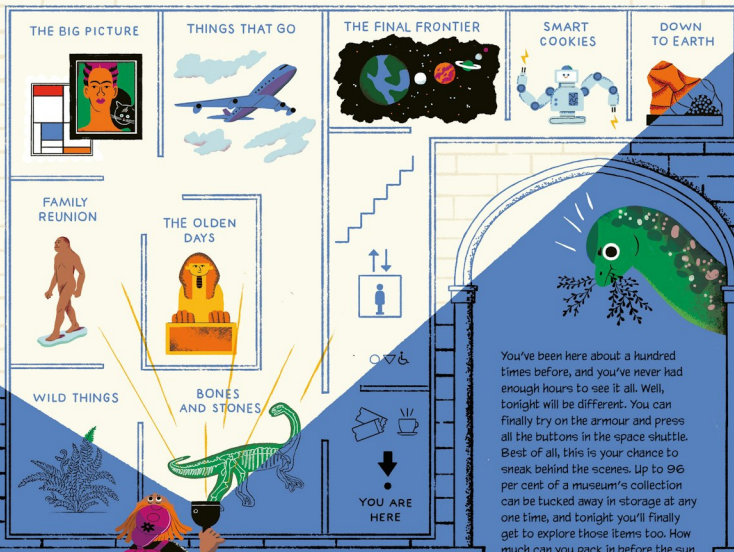


Uh oh, you were so distracted by the dinosaurs, you must have missed the announcement for closing time, and now ... **YOU'RE LOCKED IN THE MUSEUM!**



All alone in the museum, eh? No queues. No shuffling when you're too loud. Just you and the greatest treasures ever found on the planet.

This is going to be **THE BEST NIGHT EVER!**



You've been here about a hundred times before, and you've never had enough hours to see it all. Well, tonight will be different. You can finally try on the armour and press all the buttons in the space shuttle. Best of all, this is your chance to sneak behind the scenes. Up to 96 per cent of a museum's collection can be tucked away in storage at any one time, and tonight you'll finally get to explore those items too. How much can you pack in before the sun rises and the guard's keys jangle in the door? It's time to find out.



Armed with a map and torch, you gallop across the polished marble floor, making a beeline back to the Dinosaur Gallery.



BONES AND STONES

THE DINOSAUR FOSSIL GALLERY

Hmm, that's odd, it looks fuller in here than it did a minute ago. It's as though the room has somehow gained a million more bones, which might have a little something to do with this guy. Craning your neck, up, up, up, you take in a replica cast of the mighty titanosaur (Patagotitan mayorum) - the world's biggest dinosaur. It's so big, it almost doesn't fit inside the museum.

The big BOOM!

Dinosaurs are prehistoric reptiles that ruled Earth for 180 million years before going extinct 66 million years ago in a sudden, disastrous event that scientists still can't agree on. Was it an asteroid, or a volcanic eruption? Perhaps it was both in one catastrophic BOOM! Either way, the world around the dinosaurs would have changed incredibly fast - too quickly for them to adapt and survive. Good thing too, imagine meeting one on the school run?

At 37-metres long, titanosaur is twice as long as a cat transporter!

Almost 100 million years ago this giant roamed the forests of Argentina in South America. A relative of diplodocus, she would have chomped through the equivalent of 516 round lettuces in vegetation each day.

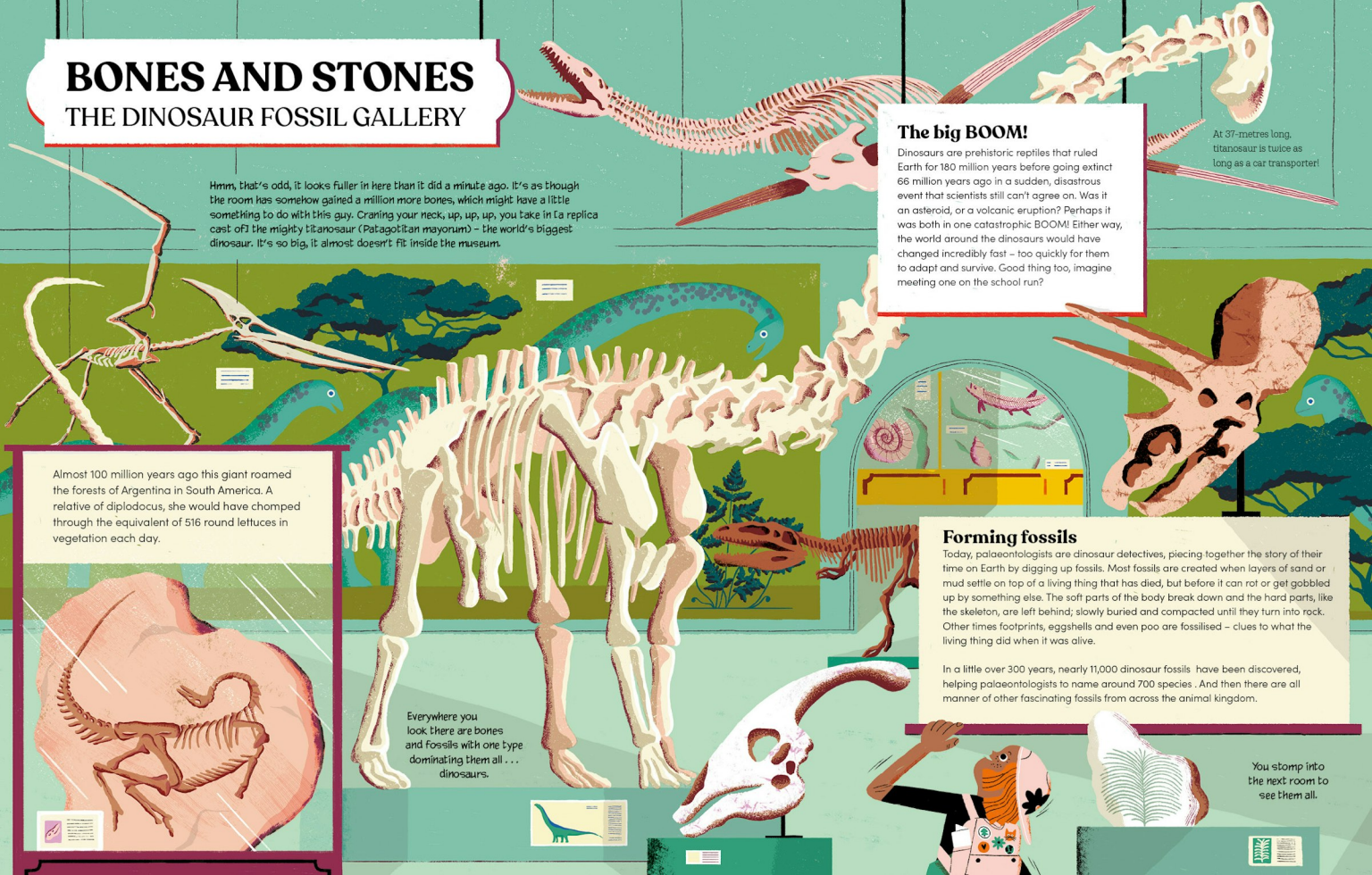
Everywhere you look there are bones and fossils with one type dominating them all... dinosaurs.

Forming fossils

Today, palaeontologists are dinosaur detectives, piecing together the story of their time on Earth by digging up fossils. Most fossils are created when layers of sand or mud settle on top of a living thing that has died, but before it can rot or get gobbled up by something else. The soft parts of the body break down and the hard parts, like the skeleton, are left behind; slowly buried and compacted until they turn into rock. Other times footprints, eggshells and even poo are fossilised - clues to what the living thing did when it was alive.

In a little over 300 years, nearly 11,000 dinosaur fossils have been discovered, helping palaeontologists to name around 700 species. And then there are all manner of other fascinating fossils from across the animal kingdom.

You stomp into the next room to see them all.



FRIGHTFUL FOSSILS

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their petrified poos to mammoths and marine monsters!



Topped with feathers

Lane is one of the most complete triceratops skeletons in existence, with mummified skin intact. Tiny holes in the bumpy skin tell scientists she may have had feathers or quills!



You are what you eat!

At 67 centimetres long, Barnum is the world's biggest coprolite (pronounced ko-pruh-lite) – fossilised poo. Coprolites help palaeontologists better understand a dinosaur's diet. Barnum is full of bones as it once belonged to a meat eater known as a T. Rex, proving this species ate every part of its prey.

The world's first bird

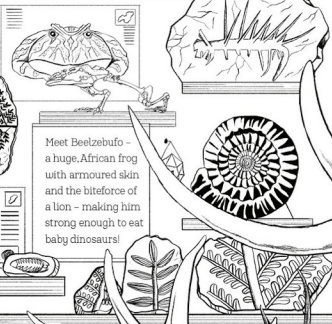
At first glance this might look like a fossilised bird, except it has teeth and clawed hands. It's the missing link – a 150-million-year-old archaeopteryx that shows how reptiles evolved – gradually developed – into birds.



Worm from the deep

Hallucigenia sparsa (pronounced hal-oo-suh-gen-ee-ah) is a 500-million-year-old marine worm. It had 10 clawed legs, curved spines along its back, and what we previously thought was its bum we now know was a mouth lined with backwards-facing spiny teeth.

Meet Beelzebub – a huge African frog with armoured skin and the biteforce of a lion – making him strong enough to eat baby dinosaurs!



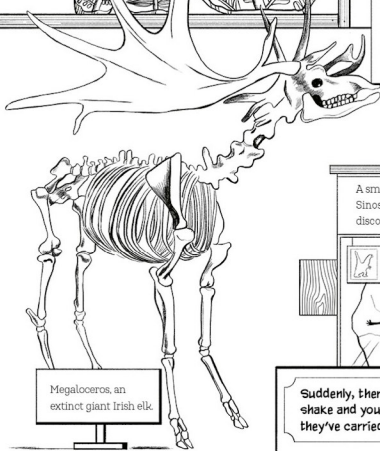
The shark-like helicopter (pronounced hel-ee-cope-ree-on) from 270 million years ago had a spiral-shaped jaw, earning it the nickname 'buzzsaw' shark.

A near-complete skeleton of a 13,000-year-old mastodon, the ancestor of today's elephants, unearthed by an American couple while digging their backyard pond.

A small carnivorous dinosaur called Sinosauropteryx is the first ever discovered with preserved feathers.

Megaloceros, an extinct giant Irish elk.

Suddenly, there's a monstrous rumbling next-door that makes the bones shake and your knees knock. Before your brain can tell your feet to stop, they've carried you through the door bringing you face to face with ...



A TOOTHY T-REX

High up on a mobile platform, an archaeologist is cautiously vacuuming the brown bones of a T-Rex, who's purring like a giant contented cat.

"Twice a year we like to blow the dust off of Sue," he smiles. "It's delicate work, we wouldn't want to . . . upset her."

Sue the T. Rex is kind of a big deal – one of the most famous fossils in the world! She's one of only 30 or so T. Rex skeletons ever discovered, and is not only the oldest and largest, but the most complete. About 90 per cent of Sue's 380 bones are accounted for, including most of her enormous, serrated teeth – some as big as bananas.

Sue the T. Rex is named after Sue Hendrickson the palaeontologist who discovered Sue's backbone sticking out of a cliff-face in South Dakota, one foggy morning in 1990. It took 6 people 17 days to extract the bones and much longer to remove the rock in preparation for Sue going on display.

Hang on a minute . . . did Sue just . . . smile at you?

You cautiously dust along Sue's jawbone. Is it just you, or are her eyes following you?

You then reluctantly dust between Sue's teeth. Pooee, 65-million-year-old bad breath is the worst.

And as you lean in closer to dust Sue's nostrils . . .

"Raaaaaaaachoo!"

she roars, blasting you onto your bottom.

"Want to have a go?" the palaeontologist says, handing you a feather duster. "This is good for getting into all those fiddly spots without causing any cracks."

It seems Sue was very dusty.