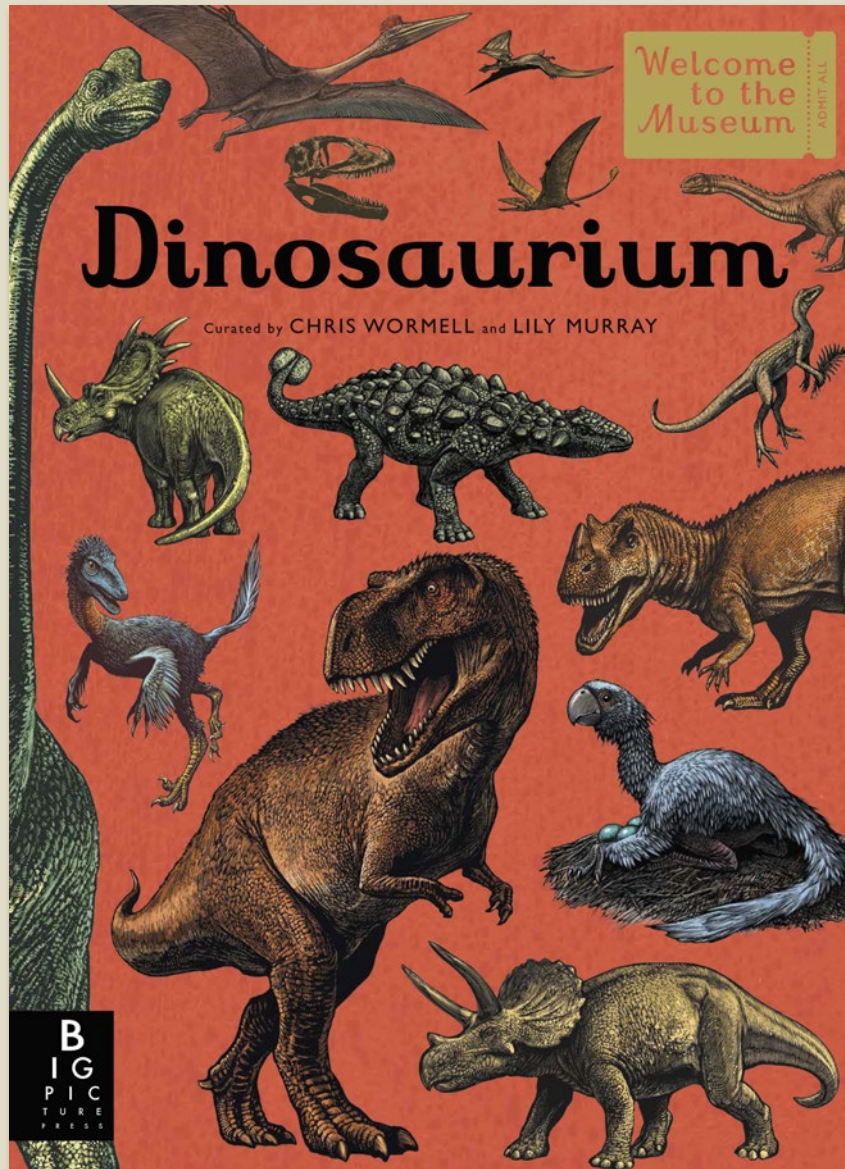


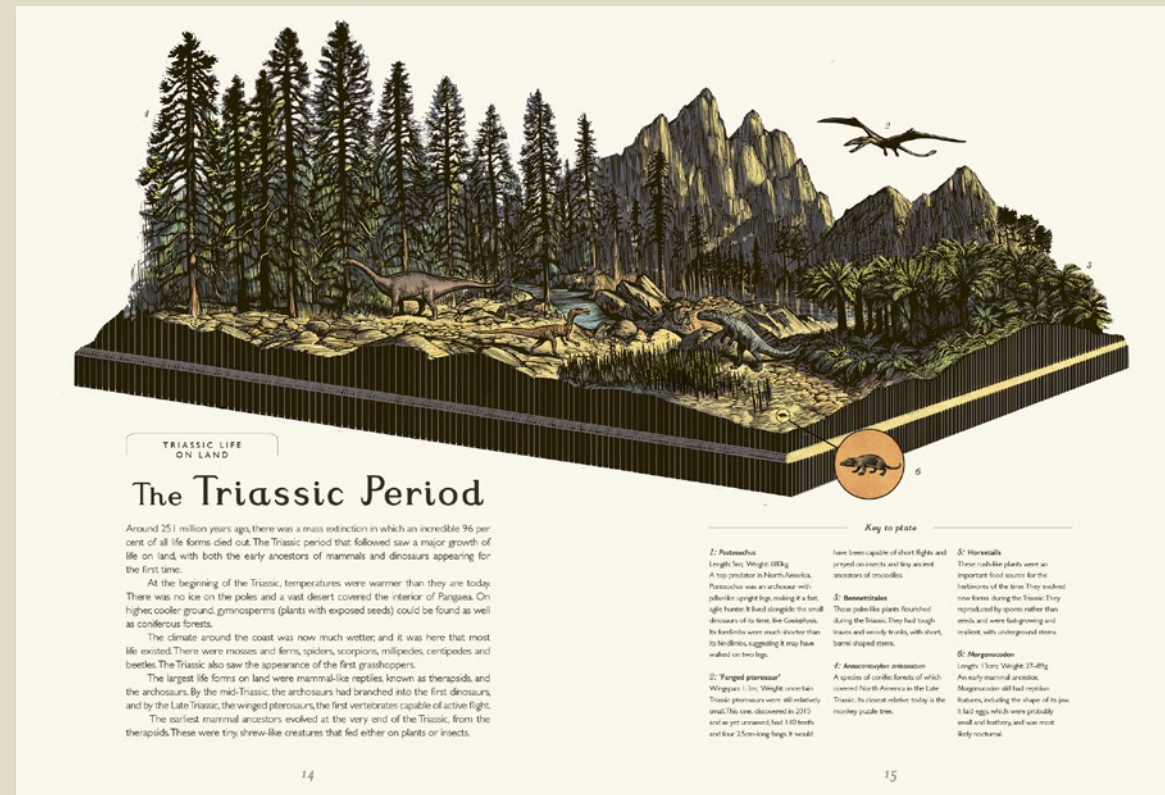
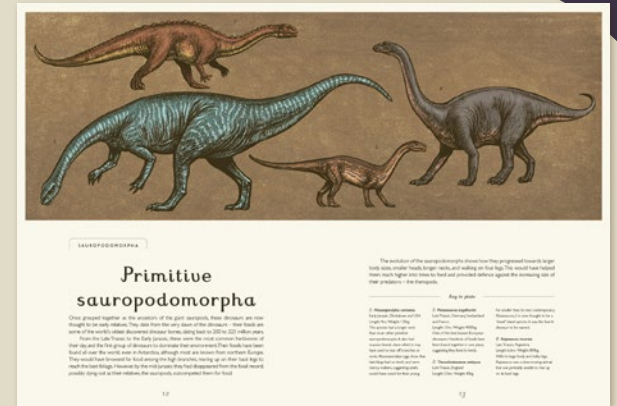
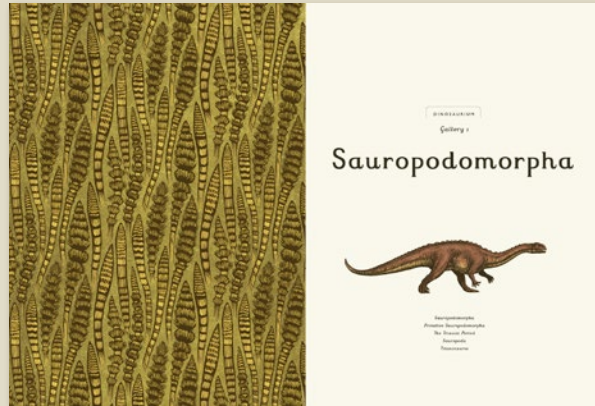
Dinosaurium



Featuring a comprehensive collection, from the legendary T. rex and Triceratops to lesser-known species.

- *Dinosaurium* has sold over 240,000 copies worldwide. The core *Welcome to the Museum* books have sold a combined quantity of over 1 million copies worldwide (as of July 2022)
- Contents: Sauropodomorpha; Theropoda; Ornithopoda; Thyreophora; Marginocephalia; Non-Dinosaurs
- Artwork by Chris Wormell, illustrator of award-winning title *H is for Hawk* and *La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Volume One* by Philip Pullman
- The book's consultant, Jonathan Tennant, was a research palaeontologist at Imperial College London.

Dinosaurium



TRIASSIC LIFE ON LAND

The Triassic Period

Around 251 million years ago, there was a mass extinction in which an incredible 96 per cent of all life forms died out. The Triassic period that followed saw a major growth of life on land, with both the early ancestors of mammals and dinosaurs appearing for the first time.

At the beginning of the Triassic, temperatures were warmer than they are today. There was no ice on the poles and a vast desert covered the interior of Pangaea. On higher, cooler ground, gymnosperms (plants with exposed seeds) could be found as well as coniferous forests.

The climate around the coast was now much wetter, and it was here that most life existed. There were mosses and ferns, spiders, scorpions, millipedes, centipedes and beetles. The Triassic also saw the appearance of the first grasshoppers.

The largest life forms on land were mammal-like reptiles, known as therapsids, and the archosaurs. By the mid-Triassic, the archosaurs had branched into the first dinosaurs, and by the Late Triassic, the winged pterosaurs, the first vertebrates capable of active flight.

The earliest mammal ancestors evolved at the very end of the Triassic, from the therapsids. These were tiny, shrew-like creatures that fed either on plants or insects.

- Key to plate**
- 1: *Protosuchia*
Length 1m; Weight 600kg
A top predator in North America. Protosuchia was an arboreal, web-footed upright leg, making a flat, rigid hunter. It fed alongside the small dinosaurs in the Late Triassic. Its hindlimbs were much shorter than its forelimbs, suggesting it may have walked on two legs.
 - 2: "Fanged promosauroid"
Wingless 1.1m; Weight uncertain
Triassic promosaurs were all relatively small. The one discovered in 2015 and yet unnamed, had 110 teeth and four 25cm-long legs. It would have been capable of short flights and preyed on insects and by its last ancestor of ornithomimid.
 - 3: *Bennettitales*
These palm-like plants flourished during the Triassic. They had tough leaves and woody trunks, with short, branched stems.
 - 4: *Arucosphyx intonsum*
A species of conifer forests of which covered North America in the Late Triassic. Its closest relative today is the monkey puzzle tree.
 - 5: *Horseshells*
These mollusk plants were an important food source for the herbivores of the time. They evolved new forms during the Triassic. They reproduced by spores rather than seeds, and were fast-growing and resilient, with underground stems.
 - 6: *Margosuchon*
Length 1.5m; Weight 27-40kg
An early mammal ancestor. Margosuchon still had monkey-like features, including the shape of its jaw. Its teeth were probably small and bony, and were probably used for chewing.

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