



DINOSAURS

Join us on an exciting adventure as we travel back in time a wild 170 million years! Together with Mimmit and MusicSmarty, let's travel to the time of the dinosaurs...

The world looked very different then. There was no Finland or even Europe, in fact the continents we now know were all just pieces of a giant continent called Pangea. Plants too were very different back then. Conifer palms and giant ferns grew in sweltering tropical forests. Even flowers and grass had yet to appear. Wouldn't it be amazing to walk under giant ferns!

Dinosaurs roamed the earth for about 170 million years. Consider that modern humans have only existed for about 300,000 years. What does that mean?

Let's get a tape measure. 170 centimeters represents the 170 million years that dinosaurs existed. On that same scale, modern humans have existed for less than one centimeter.

Pretty amazing...!

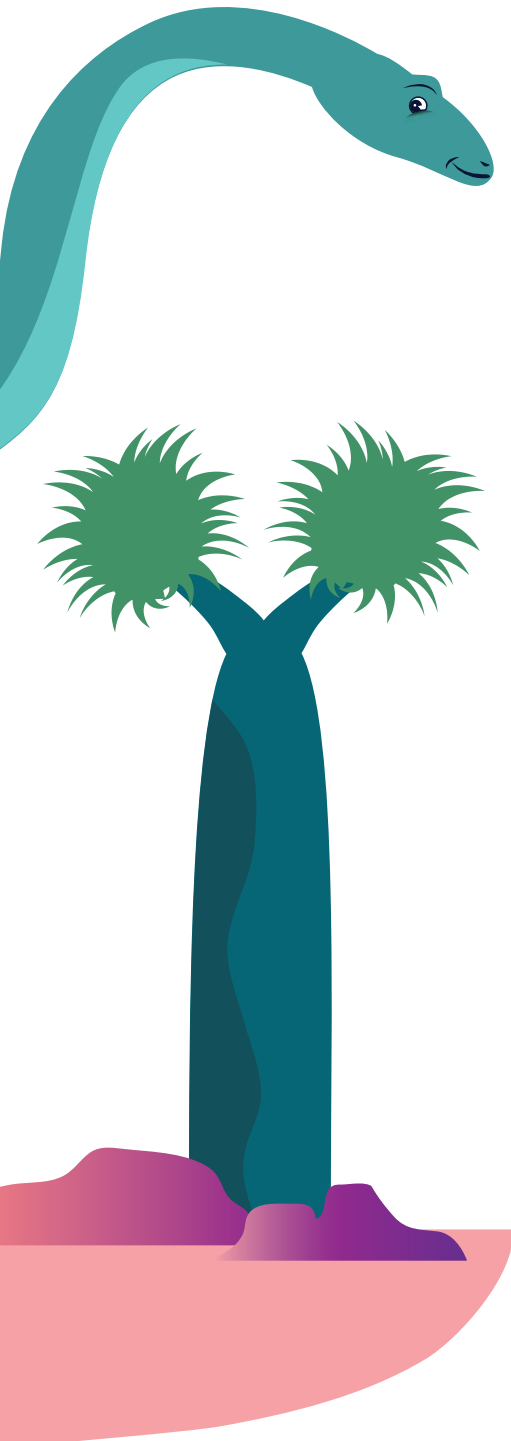
The first dinosaurs appeared approximately 250 million years ago. The period when the dinosaurs lived is called the Mesozoic era. This era is then divided into the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

The central areas of Pangea were very far from the sea, and it was as dry as a desert, much like the Sahara desert is today. Therefore, most animals, including dinosaurs, lived on the edges of this vast continent, where the climate was both cooler and wetter.

Dinosaurs were reptiles, some walked on two legs and some on four. Some dinosaurs were herbivores that munched on huge amounts of leaves, and some were carnivores that chased other dinosaurs. SCREEECH!!

Herbivorous dinosaurs are called sauropods. Sauropods were enormous in size. They are still the largest land animals this planet has ever sustained. The front legs of a Brachiosaurus were four meters long, i.e. almost the height of a giraffe! It weighed 23 tons, or equal to the weight of three male elephants. The Barosaurus on the other hand, was up to 27 meters long. That's as long as our longest train carriages today!

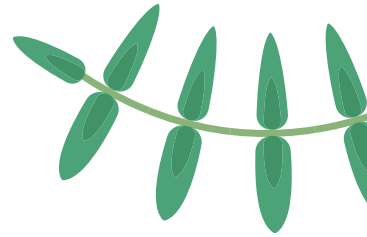
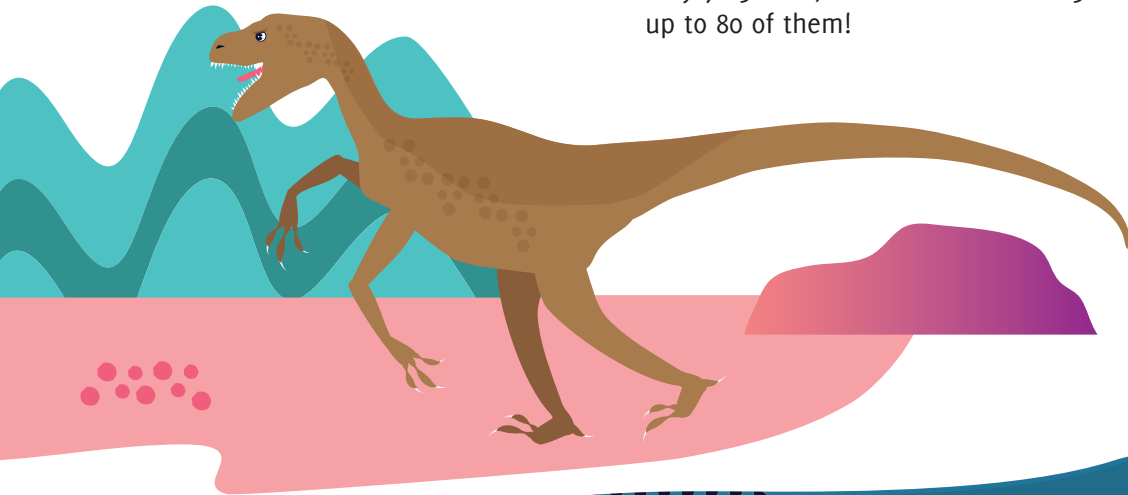
Carnivorous dinosaurs, or predatory dinosaurs, were called theropods. These beasts had big teeth and strong jaws. The most famous predatory dinosaur was the Tyrannosaurus rex or "T-rex". Almost all predatory dinosaurs walked on two legs. The T-rex ran at speeds of over 40 km per hour, but it was no match for Gallimimus, who could clock up to 80 km/h, or the same speed as a car driving on a highway!





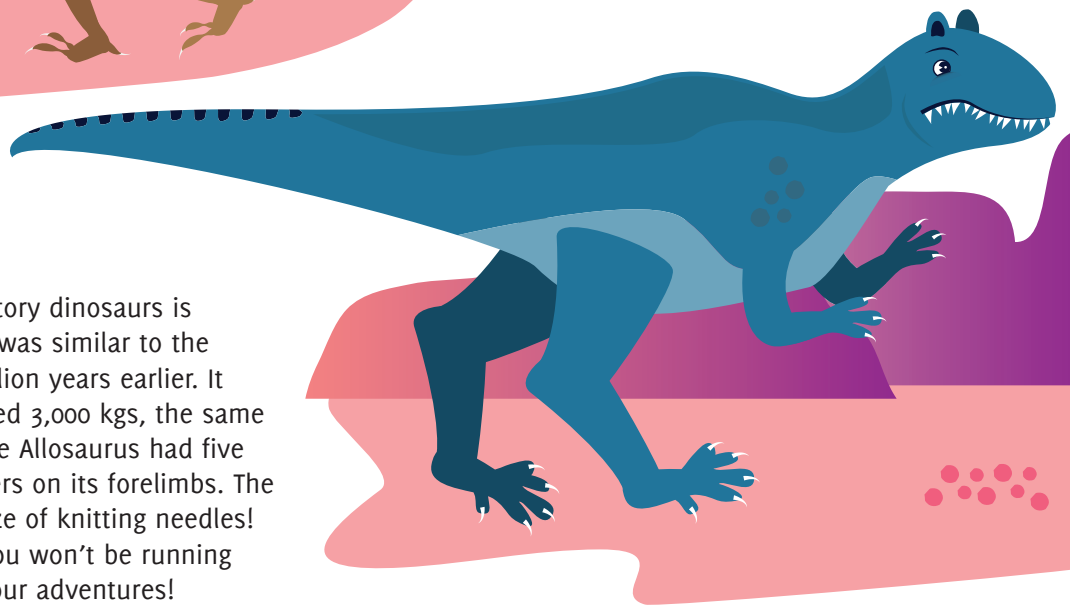
VELOCIRAPTOR:

Velociraptors were small predators that lived in the forest. It weighed only 7-15 kilos, but its teeth were 2.5 centimeters long and they had up to 80 of them!



ALLOSAURUS:

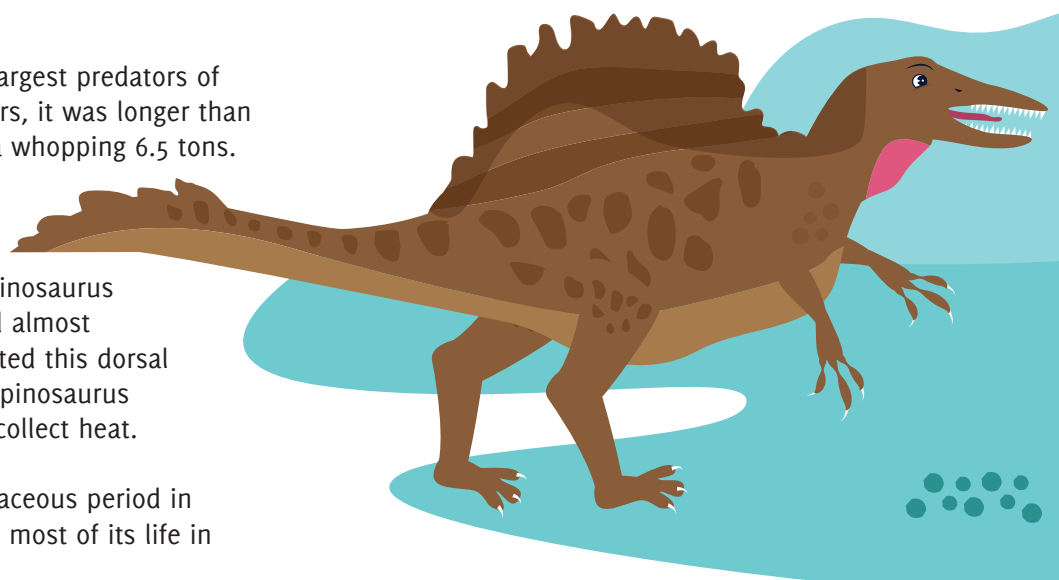
One of the most famous predatory dinosaurs is the Allosaurus. The Allosaurus was similar to the Tyrannosaurus but lived 70 million years earlier. It was 12 meters long and weighed 3,000 kgs, the same as a female elephant today. The Allosaurus had five toes on its foot and three fingers on its forelimbs. The fingers had 15 cm nails, the size of knitting needles! You'll be happy to hear, that you won't be running into any Allosaur nails during our adventures!



SPINOSAUR:

The Spinosaurus was one of the largest predators of all time. With a length of 16 meters, it was longer than a Tyrannosaurus and it weighed a whopping 6.5 tons. Although the Spinosaurus was so enormous size, it nourished itself on fish using jaws that were similar to those of a crocodile. Spinosaurus had a tall dorsal crest that looked almost like a sail. The bones that supported this dorsal sail were up to 1.8 meters long. Spinosaurus used these sails to disperse and collect heat.

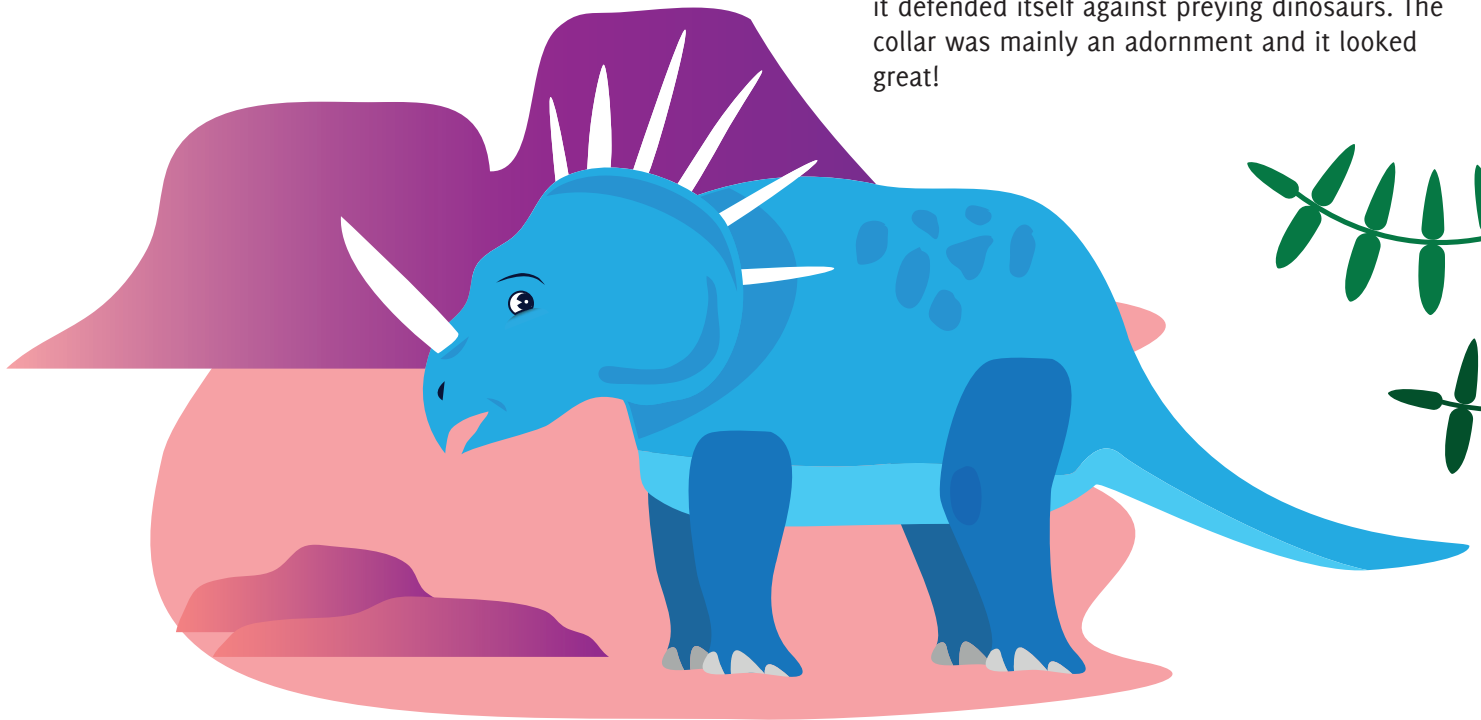
Spinosaurus lived during the Cretaceous period in what is now North Africa. It spent most of its life in the water.





STYRACOSAURUS:

The Styracosaurus belonged to the group of horned dinosaurs. It carried a huge collar that covered its neck. There were six long spikes protecting the top of this collar in addition to which the Styracosaurus sported a mighty horn on its snout. The horn was most helpful when it defended itself against preying dinosaurs. The collar was mainly an adornment and it looked great!

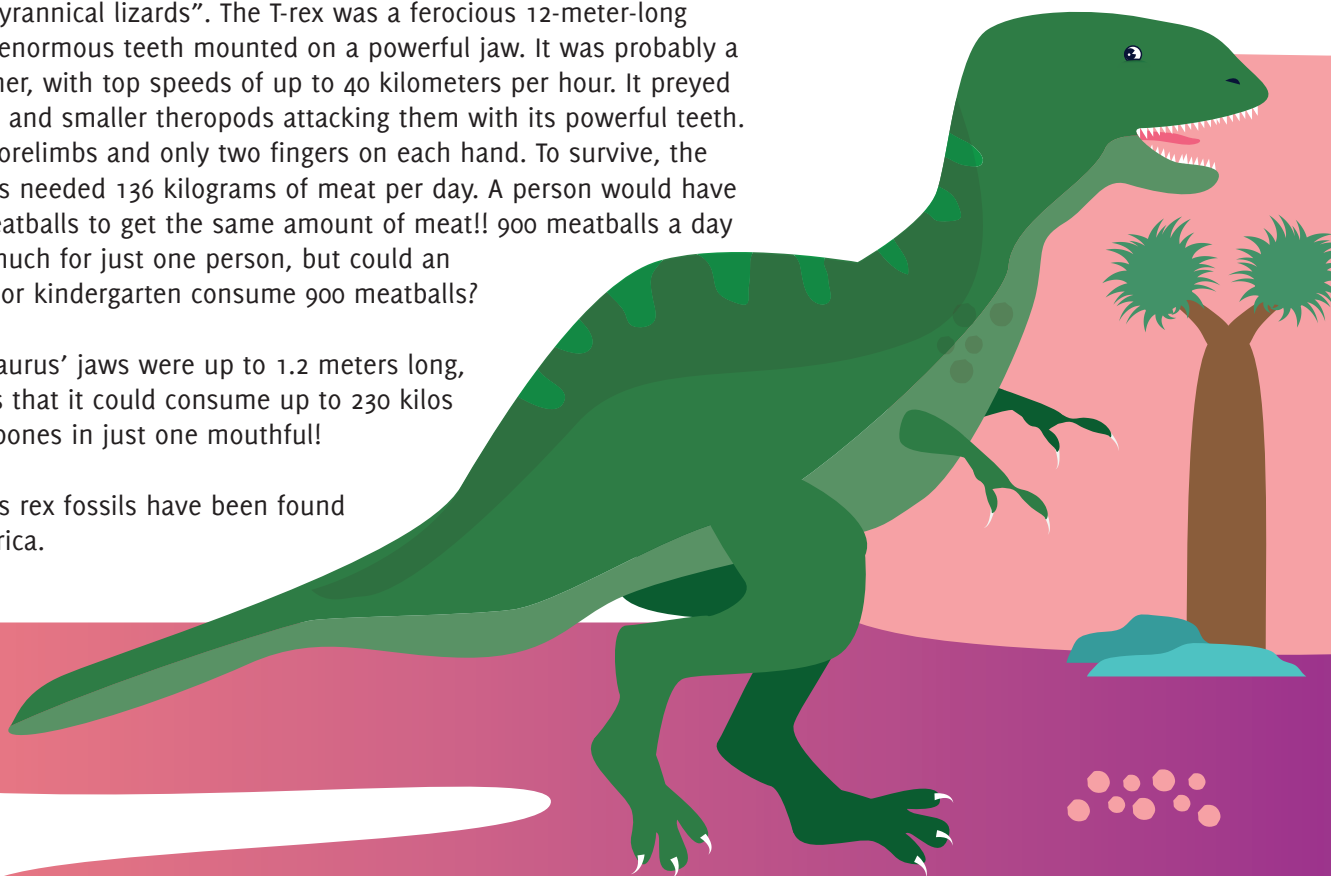


TYRANNSAURUS REX:

The most famous dinosaur of all is surely the Tyrannosaurus rex, meaning “the king of tyrannical lizards”. The T-rex was a ferocious 12-meter-long beast. It had enormous teeth mounted on a powerful jaw. It was probably a very fast runner, with top speeds of up to 40 kilometers per hour. It preyed on sauropods and smaller theropods attacking them with its powerful teeth. It had small forelimbs and only two fingers on each hand. To survive, the Tyrannosaurus needed 136 kilograms of meat per day. A person would have to eat 900 meatballs to get the same amount of meat!! 900 meatballs a day seems a bit much for just one person, but could an entire school or kindergarten consume 900 meatballs?

The Tyrannosaurus’ jaws were up to 1.2 meters long, which tells us that it could consume up to 230 kilos of meat and bones in just one mouthful!

Tyrannosaurus rex fossils have been found in North America.





SALTASAURUS:

This 12 meter long giant herbivore appeared approx. 80 million years ago and lived on until the end of the Cretaceous period. It stood on legs the size of large pillars, its hind displaying five huge toes. It ate massive amounts of plants every day.

To protect it from predatory attacks, the Saltasaurus wore armor: its back and neck were covered in fist-sized bony shields.

Saltasaurus fossils have been found in Argentina.



DIPLODOCUS:

A herbivore that walked on four legs, the Diplodocus lived approx. 150 million years ago. It was 29 meters long and weighed 10-15 tons. Its neck could be up to seven meters long: that is more than three times as long as a giraffe's neck! Using its long teeth, the Diplodocus could easily chew both large tree leaves and plants growing on the ground.

Diplodocus fossils have been found in North America.

