

# Dinosaurs

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# Who Is Sue?

## A Dinosaur Named Sue

Sue is super! She is the largest and most complete *T. rex* **fossil** ever found. A fossil is the remains of an animal or a plant that lived long ago. Many people visit Sue each year. Read the time line below to learn more about Sue.

## Fun Facts About Sue



John Weinstein, the Field Museum/Reuters

- Height at hips: 13 feet
- Length: 42 feet
- Weight: about 14,000 pounds
- Diet: meat
- Length of teeth: 7 to 12 inches

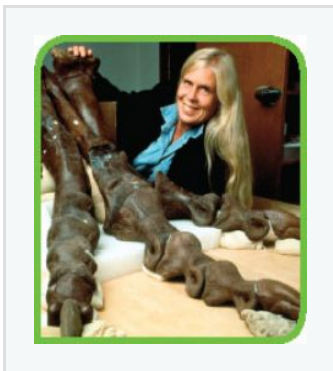
## About 67 million years ago



Roger Harris/Photo Researchers,  
Inc.

A *T. rex* dies. Its body is covered by sand and mud. It turns into a fossil over time.

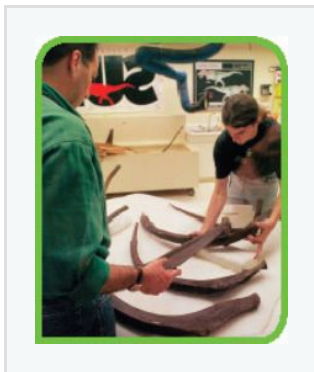
## August 12, 1990



John Weinstein, the Field  
Museum/Reuters

Fossil hunter Sue Hendrickson finds the *T. rex* bones. They are sticking out of a cliff in South Dakota. The fossil is named after Sue.

## October 20, 1997



UPI/Newscom

The bones arrive at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Scientists clean and study them.

## May 17, 2000



Richard Wong/Alamy

Sue goes on display at the museum. People come to see the new exhibit.

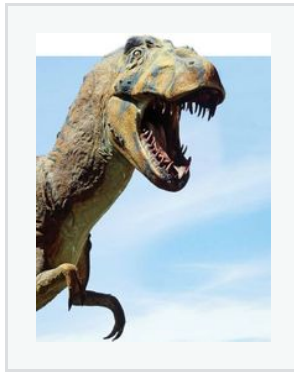
# Dinosaur World

## The Land Before People

### Dinosaurs once ruled Earth.

Dinosaurs roamed Earth millions of years ago. Some dinosaurs were as small as chickens. Others were larger than houses.

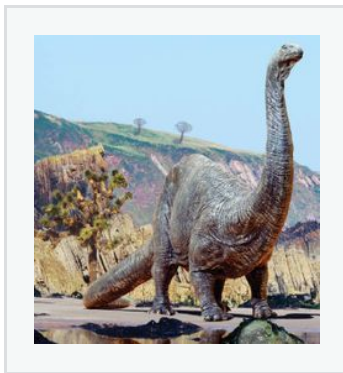
## Dinosaur Food



John Eastcott & Yva Momatiuk/Photo Researchers, Inc.

*Tyrannosaurus rex was one of the biggest meat-eating dinosaurs. It had tiny arms, with two small, sharp-clawed fingers on each arm.*

Scientists often group dinosaurs by the food they ate. Most dinosaurs ate plants. Those dinosaurs are called **herbivores**. They had flat teeth.



Kim Taylor/Warren Photographic/Photo Researchers, Inc.

*Apatosaurus was a large plant-eating dinosaur. It used to be called Brontosaurus. It had a very long neck. Its tail was even longer.*

Some dinosaurs ate meat. Those dinosaurs are called **carnivores**. Carnivores had sharp teeth.

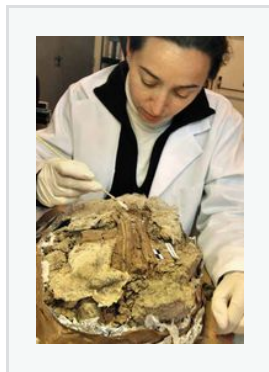
## Digging for Fossils



Richard T. Nowitz/Corbis

*Scientists dig for dinosaur fossils.*

Dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago. No people were alive during that time. Then how do we know so much about dinosaurs? People have found dinosaur **fossils** in the ground. Fossils are remains of plants and animals that lived long ago.



Zuma/Newscom

*A scientist examines a fossil in a lab.*

Hundreds of different types of dinosaurs have been found. Experts say that there are many more yet to be discovered.

# Tiny Dinosaur Discovered!

Scientists have identified a new dinosaur. It is the smallest dinosaur yet to be found in North America. The dinosaur was smaller than a house cat.



Juni Bro-Jorgensen/MCT/Newscom

*This drawing shows what the tiny dinosaur may have looked like.*

The tiny dinosaur had very sharp claws and teeth. It was a carnivore. Scientists say it most likely hunted insects and small animals.

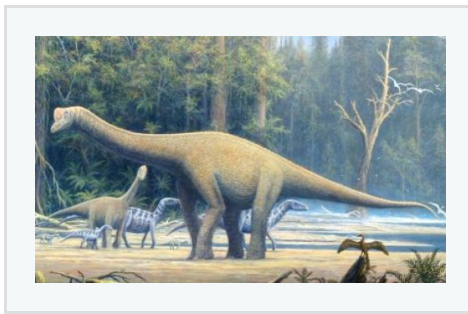
The dinosaur's fossils were actually found almost 30 years ago. They were put in a drawer for safekeeping. A scientist took the fossils out a few years ago. He decided to study them. That led him to make the discovery.

# Dinosaur Discovery

**Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. Scientists recently discovered something new about dinosaurs.**

**What did they find?**

**Little Big Dinosaur**



wikipedia.org

*Europasaurus*

**Scientists stumbled upon strange-looking dinosaur bones in Germany.**

Scientists recently found dinosaur fossils that are unlike any they had seen before. Fossils are remains of plants and animals that lived long ago. This is what scientists found:

- The fossils were from a sauropod (SAWR-uh-pahd). Sauropods were tall, plant-eating dinosaurs. The fossils were much smaller than other sauropod fossils.
- The fossils were from a dinosaur that lived on an island in Germany. The dinosaur had little food to eat and little space to roam. It never grew!
- The dinosaur shrank over time to fit on the island. Scientists named their new discovery *Europasaurus* (yoor-oh-pah-SAWR-us).





WR News

## Dinosaur Differences

Scientists sometimes group dinosaurs by the food they eat.

**Herbivores (plant eaters):**

- stood on four legs.
- had flat teeth to eat plants.
- slowly grazed for food.

**Carnivores (meat eaters):**

stood on two legs.  
had sharp teeth to eat meat.  
moved quickly to catch animals.

# Dinosaurs!

## Honking Hadrosaurs

### Some of these dinosaurs made music.

What type of dinosaur had a nose that looked like a beak? Hadrosaurs! That is why they are often known as duck-billed dinosaurs.

Hadrosaurs were plant eaters. They moved in **herds**, or groups. Most ate while standing on four legs. They were able to walk and run on two legs.

Some hadrosaurs had head crests. The crests were made of a long piece of hollow bone. **Hollow** means having an empty space on the inside.

Many scientists believe the crest was like a trumpet. The scientists say hadrosaurs used their crests to make sounds and send signals to one another.



Chris Alvanas/Getty Images  
The dinosaur's crest could  
honk out a sound like a  
trumpet, say scientists.

# Dinosaur Chomper

**Dinosaurs ruled the Earth millions of years ago. Now scientists say they have found the fossils of a giant crocodile. That might have scared even the biggest dinosaur.**

What did it take to terrify a dinosaur? How about a crocodile the size of a school bus! Scientists say such a crocodile lived in Africa about 110 million years ago. They nicknamed the giant beast "SuperCroc." Its proper name is *Sarcosuchus* (pronounced SARK-oh-SOOK-us) *imperator*, meaning "flesh crocodile emperor."

Scientists recently announced they had found the fossil remains of such a beast. The animal had 6-foot-long jaws lined with 100 razor-sharp teeth. Bony plates covered the deadly reptile's body. The fossils were discovered in October 2000 in Niger, a country in Africa.

"We had never seen anything like it," said scientist Paul Sereno. "The snout and teeth were designed for grabbing prey [such as] fish, turtles, and dinosaurs that [came] too close." Sereno said *Sarcosuchus* was one of the largest crocodiles that ever lived.



Africa and Niger on the globe

## Dino Hunter

Sereno and fellow scientists found the *Sarcosuchus* fossils in an area of an African desert called the Sahara. Although today the Sahara is dry and sandy, millions of years ago it was covered with jungles and big rivers.

SuperCroc probably hunted much as crocodiles do today, said the scientists. The ancient animal hid underwater, with just its eyes and snout showing. When a medium-sized dinosaur came to the water's edge, SuperCroc would lunge and snatch it up in its powerful jaws.



*Africa*

"When this thing grew into an adult, it was really a monster," Sereno said. "[SuperCroc] could have easily pulled down a good-sized dinosaur," he said.

SuperCroc's remains will be displayed at several museums across the country.

## Niger

**Population:** About 10,075,511 people live in Niger.

**Languages:** The main languages are French, Hausa, and Djerma.

**Land and Climate:** Deserts or mountains cover much of northern and central Niger. The Air mountain range is in the north-central part of the country.

**Wild Animals and Plant Life:** Palm, kapok, and baobab trees grow in the southern part of Niger. Some animals that live in the northern area are foxes, gazelles, and antelope. Elephants, baboons, and giraffes live in the south.