

Dinosaur Facts

What is a Dinosaur?

When scientists talk of dinosaurs, they mean a special kind of creature that lived on land during the Triassic, Jurassic, or Cretaceous period.

What Killed the Dinosaurs?

No one really knows! Scientists have several theories:

- Meteor hits the earth!
 - Lots of volcanic eruptions!
 - Climate Changes (over a long period of time)

Are Dinosaurs Reptiles or Birds?

Scientists now believe that dinosaurs may have been warm-blooded like birds, and not cold-blooded like reptiles. Scientists also believe that today's birds are actually dinosaurs, and that birds are reptiles?!

Dinosaurs First Appeared: In the Triassic Period, around 200 million years ago. A group of reptiles from the late Permian Period (archosaurs) became the best hunters on land. They developed special features in their skulls and how they walked (having an upright body with their legs under their body), which made them dinosaurs.

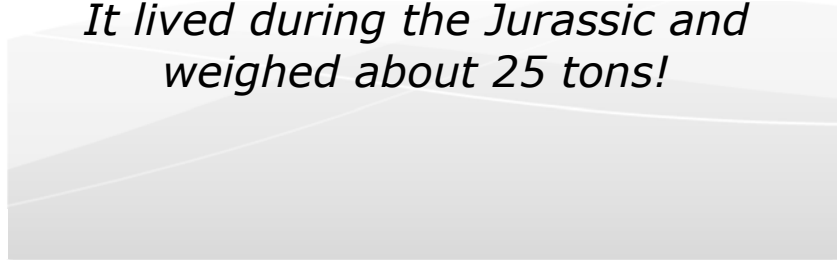
Why did Dinosaurs Look So Weird?

Dinosaurs were around for millions of years. During that time they changed to suit their environment and conditions. Horns, plates, thorns, spines, long necks, claws, each of these served a purpose for that dinosaur. If you think about it, dinosaurs were around for a little more than 200 million years. Human beings have been around for about 120,000.

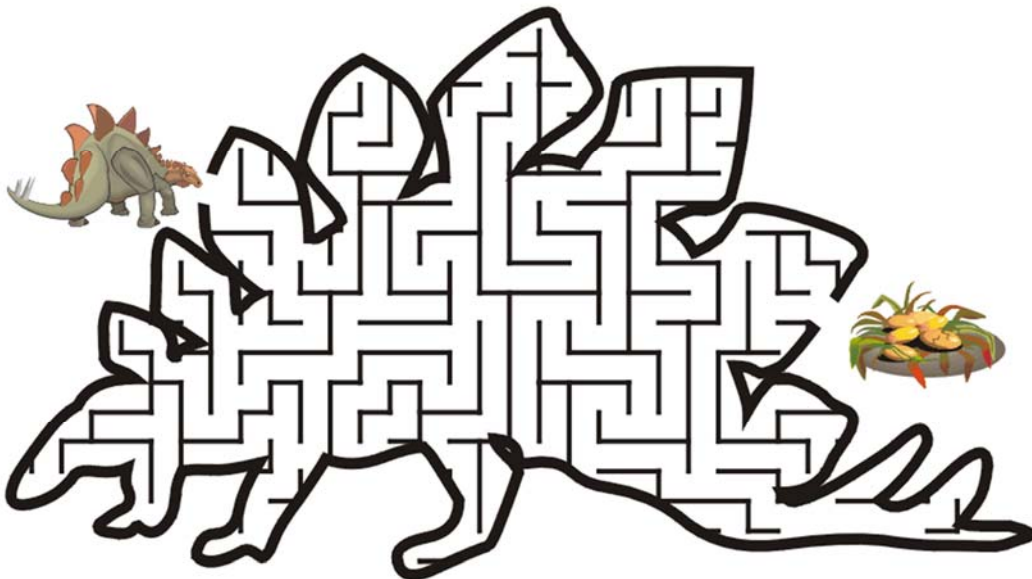
Think how weird WE might look in another million years or so!

Stegosaurus was a plant eater! It had thick legs like an elephant, which held up its weight, but didn't allow it to run very fast. Good thing it had those secret weapons on its tail!

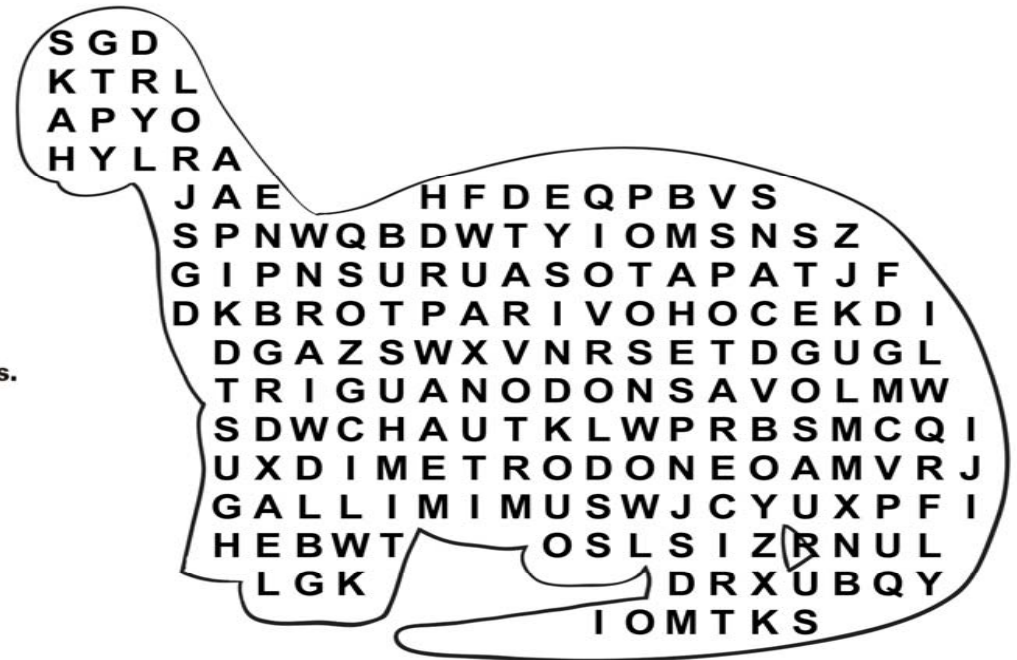
Apatosaurus was also a plant eater! It lived during the Jurassic and weighed about 25 tons!



Help the stegosaurus through the dinosaur maze to find her nest of eggs.



Dinosaur Word Search



APATOSAURUS
 TRICERATOPS
 DIMETRODON
 OVIRAPTOR

STEGOSAURUS
 TYRANNOSAURUS
 IGUANODON
 GALLIMIMUS