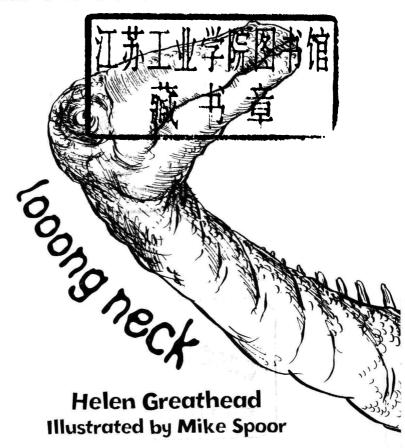


DIPLODOCUS

the DINOSAUR with the...



■ SCHOLASTIC

Other books in the series: Iguanodon – the dinosaur with fat bottom T.Rex – the dinosaur with stupid smile Stegosaurus – the dinosaur with spiky spine

Professor Michael J Benton – dinosaur consultant Valerie Wilding – educational advisor Ben Newth – researcher

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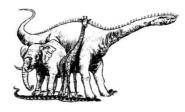
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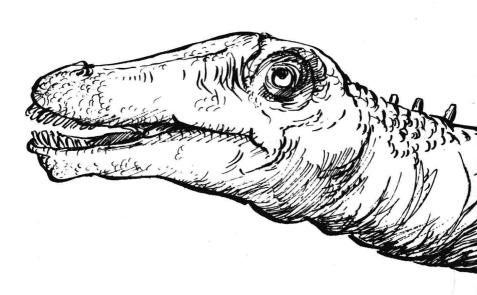
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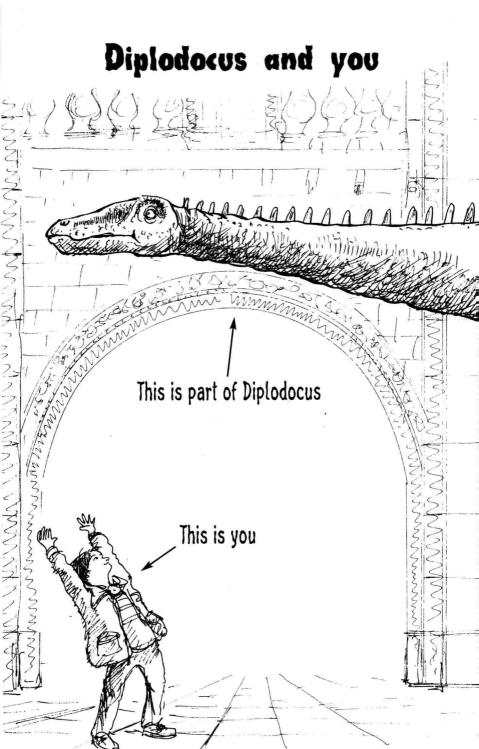
Introduction

Dinosaur names are often hard to say. It's easier to say them in bits:

Di-plod-oh-kus

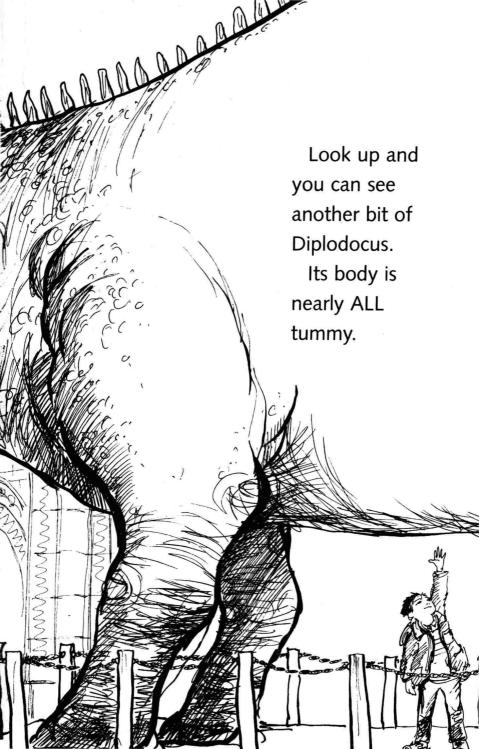
Say it slowly, then a bit faster. Diplodocus. Now you know the name of a very long dinosaur.



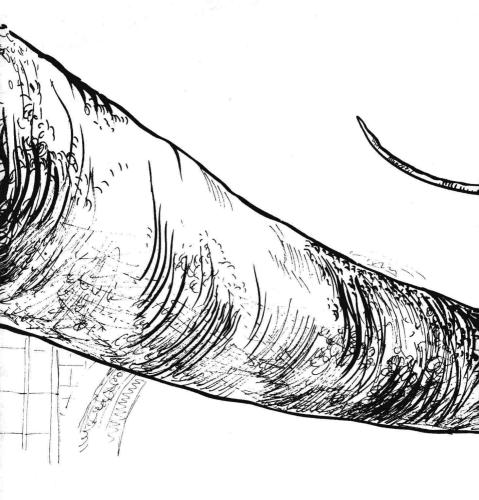


It's difficult to fit you and Diplodocus on the same page. Diplodocus has got a VERY long neck, hasn't it? Some scientists think Diplodocus held its neck straight out in front so its head stayed

close to the ground.



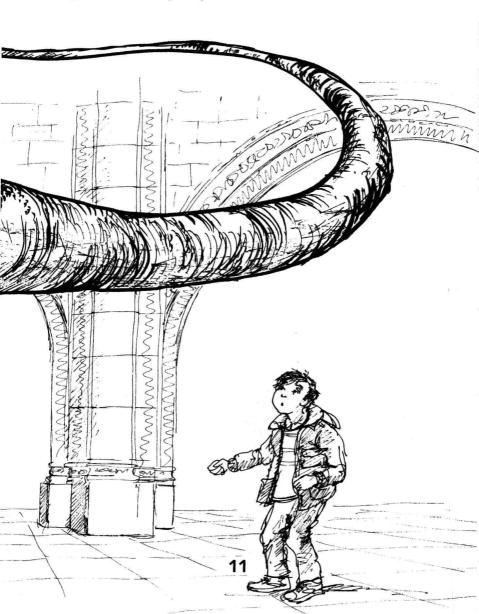




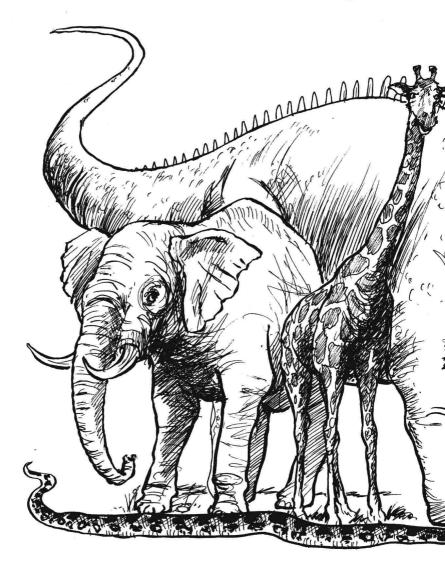
Hanging over your head is the last bit of Diplodocus – its tail. The tail is even longer than the neck. It is thin and bendy. Diplodocus can swish it from side to side, so you'd better watch out!

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Of course, you wouldn't ever meet a real Diplodocus. All dinosaurs died out ages before people lived on Earth.



Diplodocus belonged to a group of dinosaurs called sauropods (sore-ohpods). They were the biggest creatures EVER to walk on Earth. And the longest!



Diplodocus was taller than a giraffe. It was much bigger than an elephant. And a lot longer than a python.

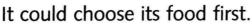
Some scientists think it could live for up to 200 years! When a Diplodocus was born, it kept on growing. The older it got, the bigger it grew. So the oldest Diplodocus was absolutely massive.

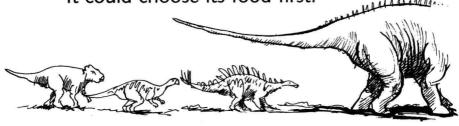
But why was it so big?

Diplodocus sticks its neck out

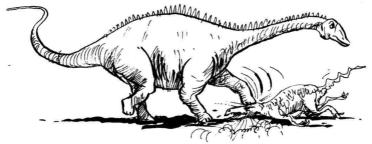
There were some good things about being big.

Diplodocus could reach food other creatures couldn't get at.





It didn't have to worry about being attacked.



But there were some bad things about being big, too.

Diplodocus was too heavy to hop, skip, jump or run. It could only walk veeerrry slooowly.

Being heavy meant its bones could crack easily. A cracked bone might mend. But a broken bone meant Diplodocus couldn't move at all. If it didn't move, it couldn't find enough food to feed itself. It would be a dead Diplodocus.

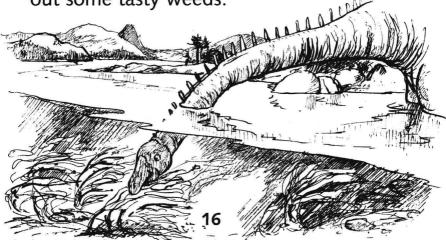


Diplodocus had to eat nearly all day to feed its great big body. It had to drink a lot, too. Diplodocus had to keep moving to find food and water. And that's why its long neck was so brilliant...

It could stretch out to reach into a deep, thick forest.



It could reach down into a river to pick out some tasty weeds.



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