

A pterosaur is shown in flight in the upper left corner of the page.

# Ask a Dinosaur

Could dinosaurs fly?

Why did you all die out?

Did dinosaurs sneeze?

Did you get toothache?

And it will answer you.

# Ask a Dinosaur

This diagram shows you how big we  
were compared to an adult person.

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**Senior editor** Deborah Lock  
**Senior art editor** Gemma Fletcher  
**Designer** Lauren Rosier

**Picture researcher** Kate Lockley  
**Production editor** Siu Chan  
**Production controller** Claire Pearson  
**Jacket designer** Gemma Fletcher  
**Publishing manager** Bridget Giles  
**Art director** Martin Wilson  
**Creative director** Jane Bull  
**Category publisher** Mary Ling

**Consultant** Douglas Palmer

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# Contents

- 4** Are all fossils  
dinosaurs?
- 6** Can anyone find  
a fossil?
- 8** Were dinosaurs as big  
as skyscrapers?
- 10** Could dinosaurs fly?
- 12** Which was the  
deadliest?
- 14** Were there dragons?
- 16** Did baby dinosaurs  
play?
- 18** Were dinosaurs noisy?
- 20** Were dinosaurs lazy?
- 22** Was Triceratops brave?
- 24** Where is the biggest  
T-rex?
- 26** Could dinosaurs swim?
- 28** Can dinosaurs be  
brought back to life?
- 30** Who were the record  
holders?
- 32** Index and glossary



A pterosaur is shown in flight in the upper left corner of the cover.

# Ask a Dinosaur

A large, detailed illustration of a Triceratops head is the central focus of the cover. It has a green, scaly texture, a large red eye, and prominent orange horns with black bands. The background is a lush green landscape with ferns.

*Could dinosaurs fly?*

*Why did you  
all die out?*

*Did dinosaurs  
sneeze?*

*Did you get  
toothache?*

**And it will answer you.**



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# Ask a Dinosaur



This diagram shows you how big we  
were compared to an adult person.





# Are all fossils dinosaurs?



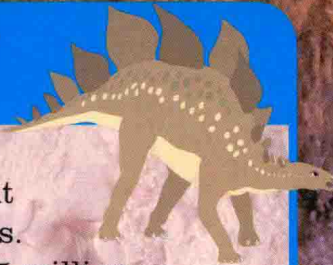
**We are dinosaurs and you know about us because of our fossils.** But our fossils are not the only ones found. Fossils are what are left of all the many animals and plants that lived millions of years ago.

Fossils can tell you when we lived and give you some clues (but not all) to how we and other prehistoric animals and plants lived.



5

## things to know about us...



1. So far, over 700 types of dinosaurs have been found, but there were certainly more of us.
2. We lived between 230 and 65 million years ago.
3. The word dinosaur means "terrible lizard".
4. We were not lizards but a group of land reptiles that stood upright.
5. Female dinosaurs laid eggs.

## When did you live?

Scientists believe Earth is billions of years old and have given names to its many time periods. They call the time when we lived the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods.



250 million years ago, all the land on Earth was joined together.

## What other clues are there?

Different types of fossils can give you different clues.

**Footprints** and tracks can tell you how we walked and how fast we moved.



**Coprolites** are fossilized animal dung that can tell you what we ate.



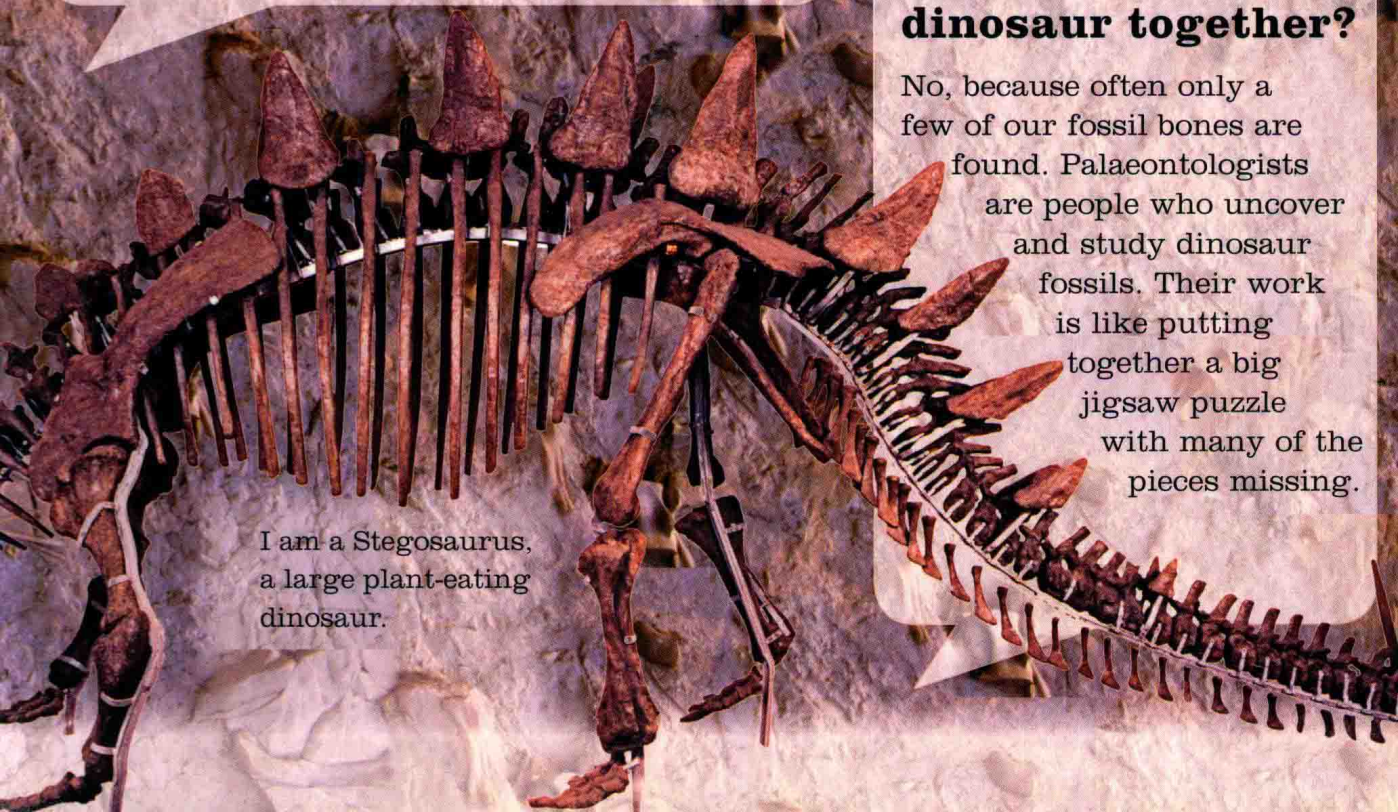
**Nest sites** can tell you how we lived together.



## Is it easy to put a dinosaur together?

No, because often only a few of our fossil bones are found. Palaeontologists are people who uncover and study dinosaur fossils. Their work is like putting together a big jigsaw puzzle with many of the pieces missing.

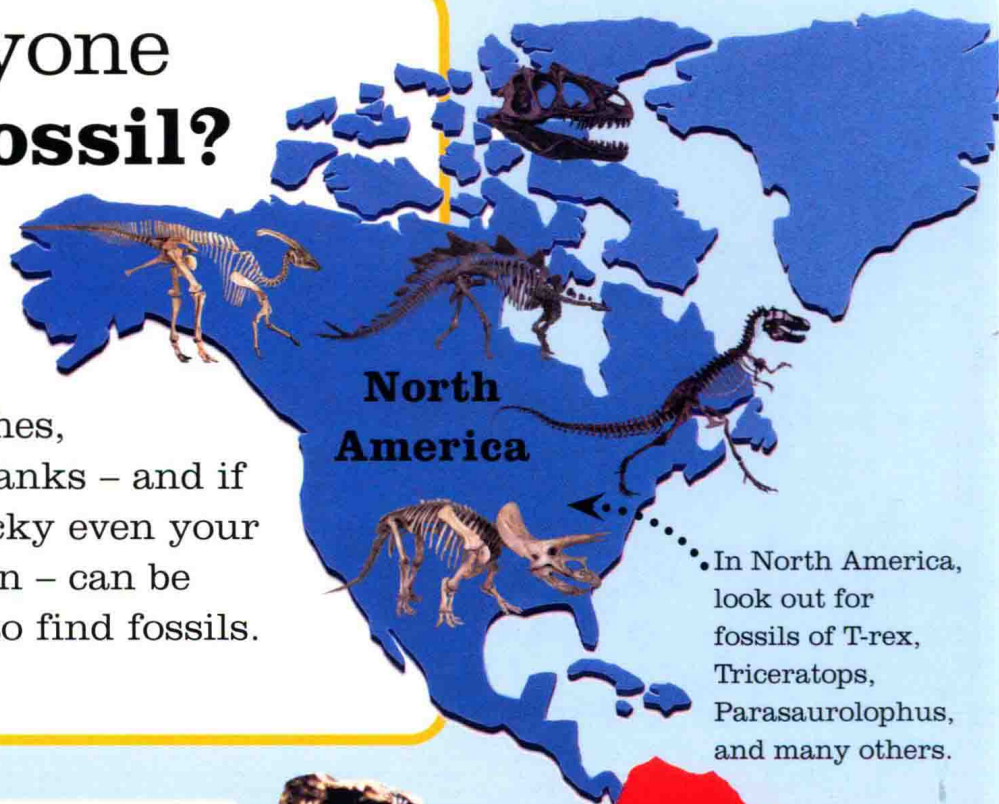
I am a Stegosaurus, a large plant-eating dinosaur.





# Can anyone find a **fossil**?

Fossils of dinosaurs are found buried in rocks all over the world. Beaches, quarries, riverbanks – and if you are very lucky even your own back garden – can be possible places to find fossils.



• In North America, look out for fossils of T-rex, Triceratops, Parasaurolophus, and many others.

## What was the first dinosaur found?

Early people found dinosaur fossils but didn't know what they were. It was scientists in the 1800s who started naming us. I am an Iguanodon and I was one of the first to be named.



I could walk on four legs or run on two legs.

Some of the largest and oldest dinosaurs have been found in South America.



My thumb spike was put on my nose at first!



Fossils of Plateosaurus, Iguanodon, and Baronyx are just a few of those found in Europe. ....

Many fossils have been found in China and other parts of Asia, such as Protoceratops and dinosaurs with feathers. ....

**Europe**

**Asia**

**Africa**

## Who names the dinosaurs?

The palaeontologist who finds a new type of dinosaur can name it. The person might choose someone's name or use the place name where the fossil was discovered. Mostly, our names tell you something about what we looked like.

Australia was much colder in dinosaur times and, so far, only small dinosaurs such as Minmi have been found. ....

**Australia and New Zealand**

..... The fossils of Brachiosaurus and Spinosaurus, along with many others, have been found in Africa.

**Antarctica**

..... Antarctica was not as cold as it is now and dinosaurs lived here, including a type of hypsilophodont.



# Were dinosaurs as **big** as skyscrapers?

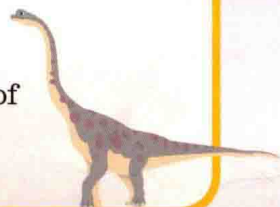
**Not quite, but there were some huge ones like me.**

**I am a Barosaurus.** I belong to the group of long-necked, long-tailed plant-eating dinosaurs, known as sauropods.



## **5** things to know about me...

1. I lived in the Jurassic period about 156–145 million years ago.
2. I've been found in North America and Africa.
3. My name means "heavy lizard".
4. I probably moved about in a herd.
5. I ate huge amounts of plants, such as conifer and tree ferns.



My tail could be used **like a whip**...



## **Did the ground shake when you moved?**

Oh yes! I weighed more than three elephants and walked in a similar way with my pillar-like legs underneath my bulky body.

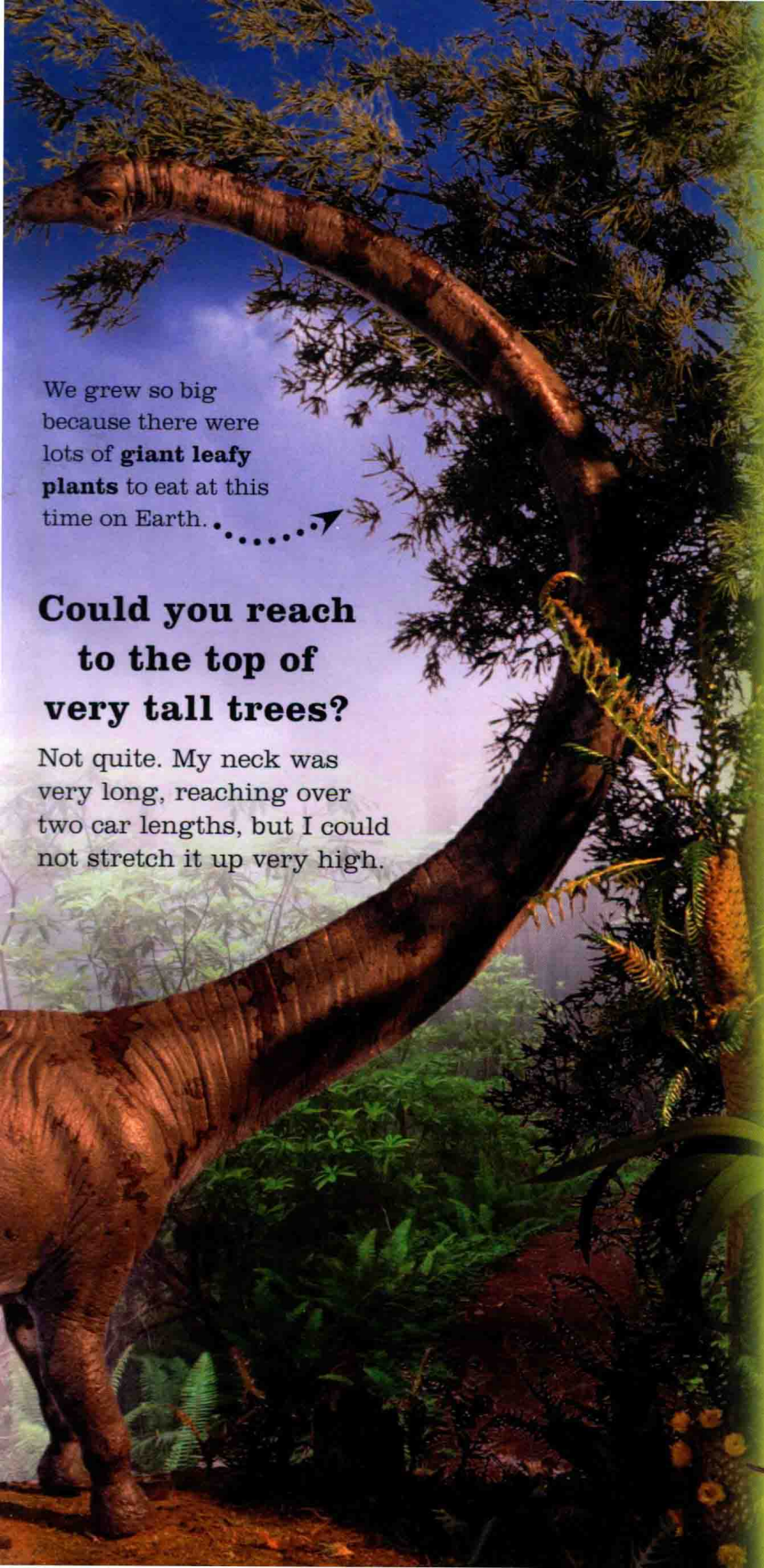


Sauropod means "**lizard foot**".

You would only have been able to **stretch** up to reach my knee.







We grew so big  
because there were  
lots of **giant leafy  
plants** to eat at this  
time on Earth. . . . . ➔

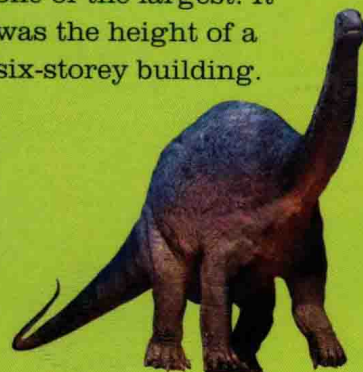
## Could you reach to the top of very tall trees?

Not quite. My neck was  
very long, reaching over  
two car lengths, but I could  
not stretch it up very high.

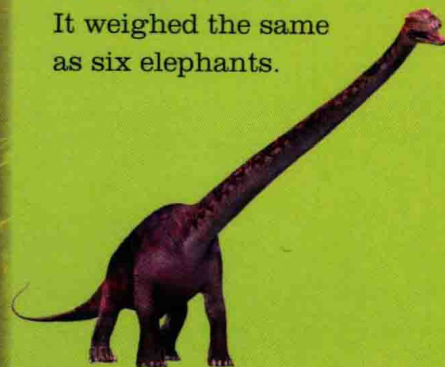
## Which sauropods are the record breakers?

Sauropods are the biggest  
and heaviest animals ever  
to have walked on land.

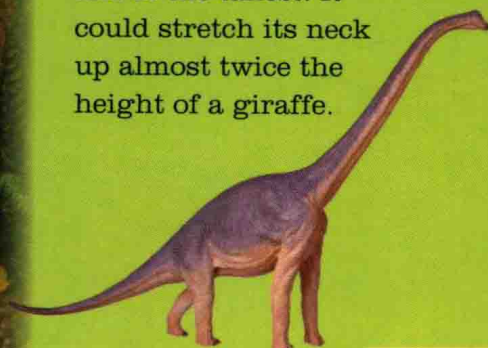
**Argentinosaurus** was  
one of the largest. It  
was the height of a  
six-storey building.



**Seismosaurus** was  
one of the heaviest.  
It weighed the same  
as six elephants.



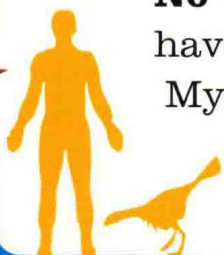
**Brachiosaurus** was  
one of the tallest. It  
could stretch its neck  
up almost twice the  
height of a giraffe.





# Could dinosaurs fly?

**No we couldn't.** But some of us did have feathers. I am a Caudipteryx. My feathers kept me warm.



I was the **size** of a turkey.

Dinosaur feathers were **symmetrical** like those of ostriches and other birds that can't fly.

Dinosaurs had holes in the sides of their heads, which led to ears inside, rather like birds have.

**5**

**things to know about me...**

1. I lived in the Cretaceous period about 125 million years ago.
2. I've been found in China.
3. My name means "tail feather".
4. I ate plants and small creatures, like insects, lizards, and mammals.
5. I lived beside lakes and rivers.





## What colour were you?

No one actually knows. Colours are very, very rarely found on fossils.

Palaeontologists guess our colour after thinking about how and where we lived.



## Which other dinosaurs looked like birds?

Birds have a lot in common with dinosaurs, so probably some of us may have changed into birds over a long period of time.

**Sinosauropteryx** was a dinosaur covered in small feathers.

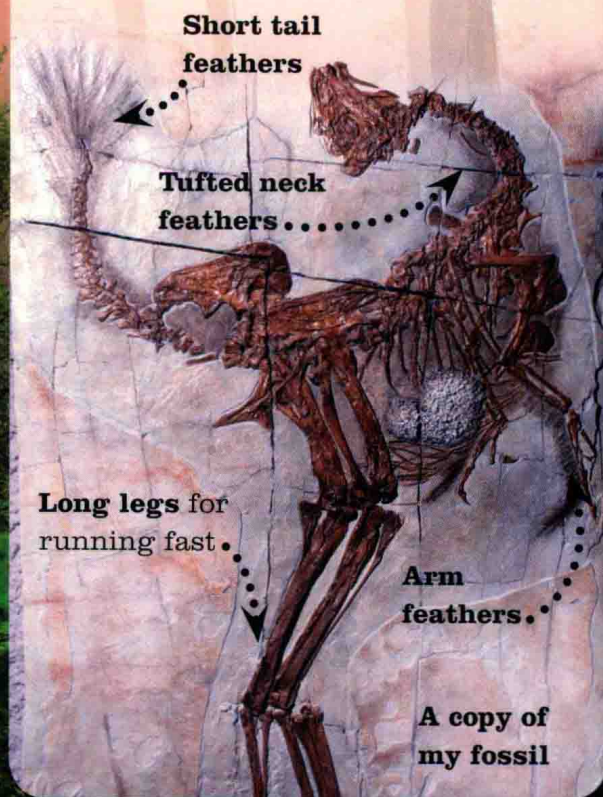


**Archaeopteryx** is the earliest bird known.



## Were there any spotted dinosaurs?

Very, very few fossils show what skin patterns we had. Only recently have fossils been found showing a striped pattern. No dinosaur fossils with spots have been found yet!





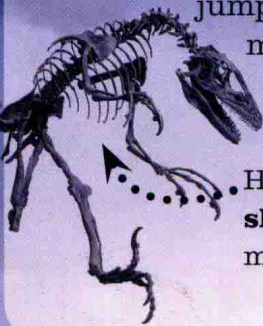
# Which was the deadliest?

**Meat-eating dinosaurs were ferocious killers,** but the dinosaur family of raptors were probably the deadliest. I am a Deinonychus, and, like other raptors, I was a fast, cunning, and intelligent hunter. I was powerful and terrifying.



## Can dinosaurs jump?

Yes. Raptors were very agile with muscular, long legs. We could jump onto the backs of much larger plant-eating dinosaurs to attack them.

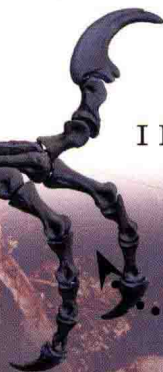


Here's a model of my **skeleton** showing me leaping.

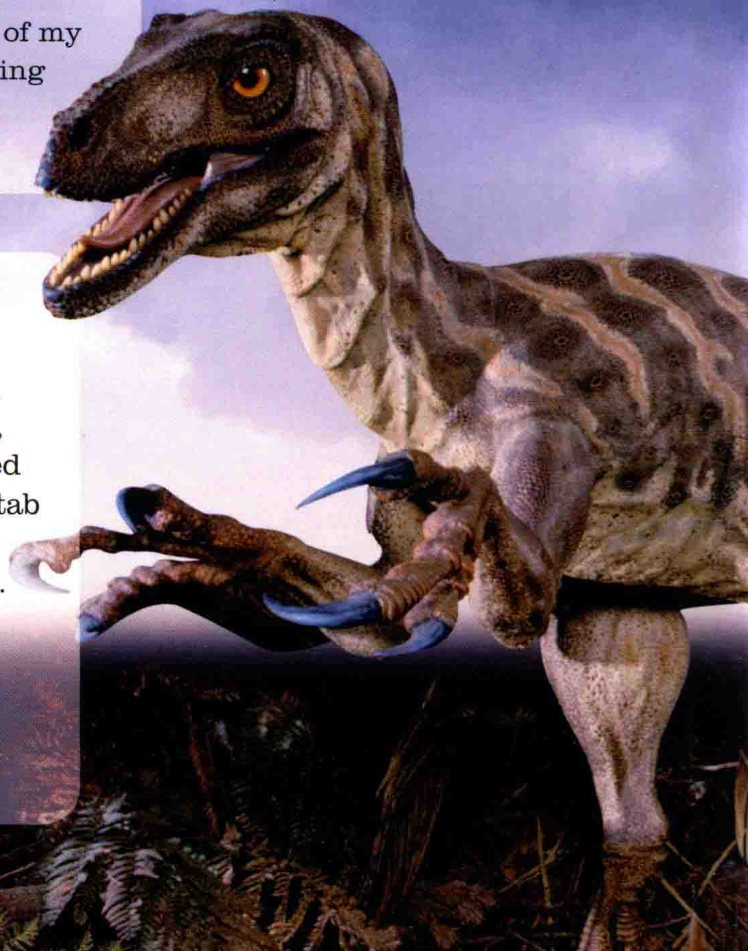
I could **see** very well and could probably **smell** my prey from more than a kilometre away.

## How did you kill?

Like a kung-fu fighter, I had a lethal kick! I had a large raised sickle-shaped claw on each foot, which I twisted forwards to stab my victims as I kicked at them.



..... Foot fossil





5

## things to know about me...

1. I lived in the Cretaceous period about 115–108 million years ago.
2. I've been found in North America.
3. My name means "terrible claw".
4. I ate rodents, lizards, and plant-eating dinosaurs.
5. I probably hunted in packs.



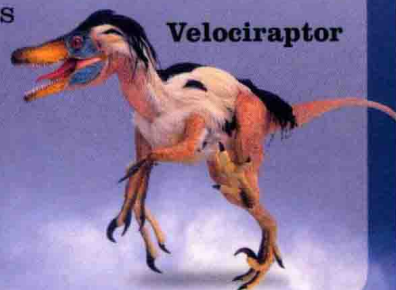
My **hand claws** were used for slashing and ripping apart my prey.

My **teeth** were razor-sharp to bite and tear.

My **long tail** helped me to balance as I kicked.

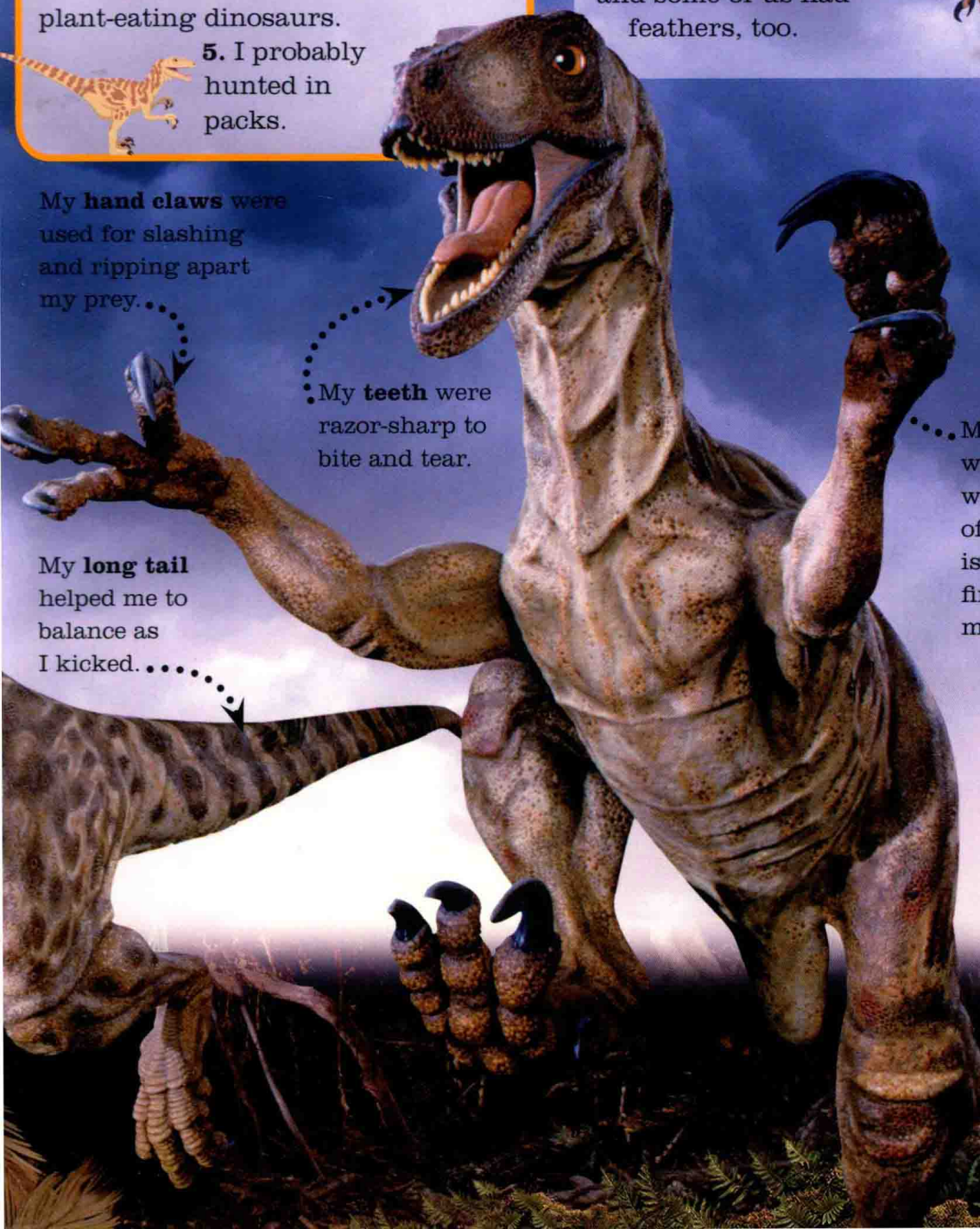
## Why are you called raptors?

The word raptor comes from a Latin word meaning "to grasp". Today, raptors are birds of prey, such as eagles, which catch live prey. We are the dinosaurs who acted like them and some of us had feathers, too.



**Velociraptor**

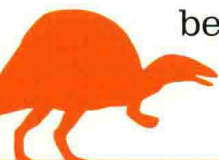
My **bony claws** were covered with a large hook of keratin, which is what your fingernails are made of.





# Were there **dragons**?

**Dragons are made-up creatures in stories**, but some dinosaurs did look and act as fierce as them. I am a Spinosaurus. I couldn't breathe fire, but I would have been a frightening sight.



I was larger than  
a Tyrannosaurus.

I lashed around my  
**long, stiff tail** to  
knock over prey.....

I impressed my  
mates with my  
**huge "sail"**.....

**5**

## **things to know about me...**

1. I lived in the Cretaceous period about 106–94 million years ago.
2. I've been found in North Africa.
3. My name means "spine lizard".
4. I ate large fish, dinosaurs, and flying reptiles.
5. I was probably one of the cleverest dinosaurs.

