

About Dinosaurs

Second Edition

A We Both Read Book

Level 1–2

Guided Reading: Level H

With special thanks to dinosaur specialist, Dr. Matthew Lamanna,
Associate Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Carnegie Museum of Natural
History, for his review and advice on the writing of this book.

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by Cindy McKay

TREASURE BAY

Tarbosaurus (TAHR-buh-SORE-us)




Gecko

 **Lizards** stand with their legs to the side of their bodies. **Dinosaurs** stood with their legs under their bodies.



Stegosaurus (steg-uh-SORE-us)

 Millions of years ago, animals we call **dinosaurs** lived all over the world. These **dinosaurs** are now extinct, but you can still see them in movies, books, and even museums.

In Greek, the word **dinosaur** means “terrible **lizard**,” but **dinosaurs** were not **lizards**.

Excavating dinosaur fossils



The scientists who study dinosaurs are called *paleontologists* (PAY-lee-uhn-TAW-luh-jists).

By studying fossil bones, paleontologists have identified over 700 different kinds of dinosaurs. And scientists believe there are probably more than twice that many dinosaurs yet to be discovered!

Paleontologists digging for fossils



Suchomimus (SOOK-uh-MY-muhs)



Bones of this dinosaur were first discovered about 20 years ago. It lived 115 million years ago. It hunted on land and in the water.

Suchomimus (SOOK-uh-MY-muhs)



Hatching dinosaur eggs (model)



Parasaurolophus (PAIR-uh-sore-AH-luh-fis)



- 🗨️ Paleontologists have long debated how to classify dinosaurs. However, they do agree that, like modern birds and reptiles, dinosaurs hatched from eggs.

The largest dinosaur eggs that have been found are about the size of a football. That's a lot bigger than a chicken egg!

- 🗨️ Some dinosaurs walked on two legs. Some walked on four legs. Some could do both.

Allosaurus (al-uh-SORE-us)



Tyrannosaurus rex (tuh-RAN-uh-SORE-us rex)

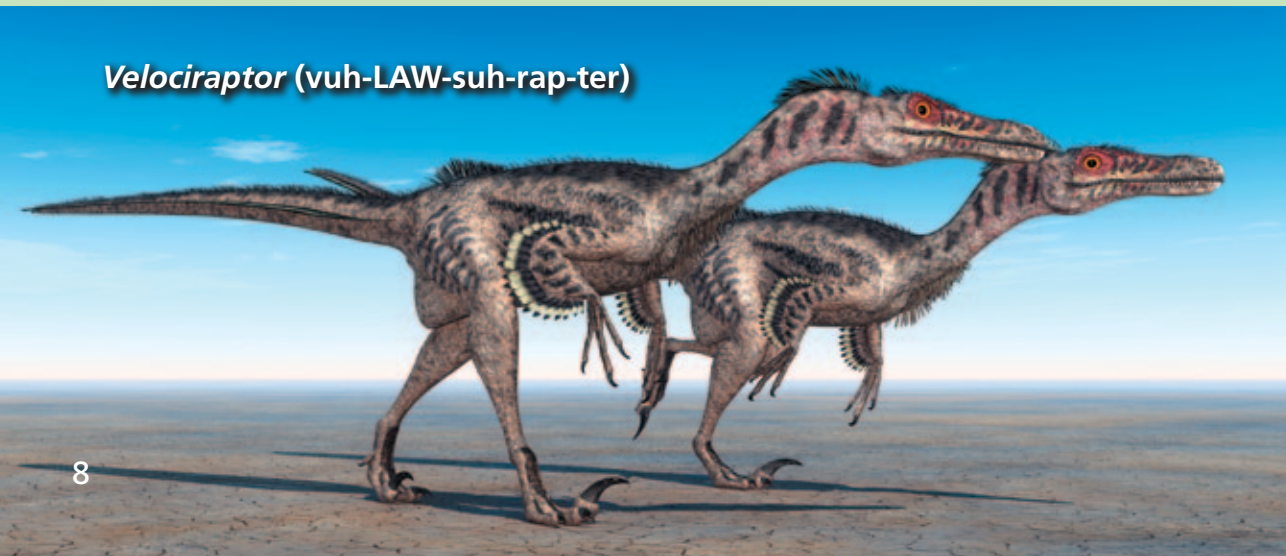
Triceratops (tri-SER-uh-tops)



🗨️ Dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus rex* (tuh-RAN-uh-SORE-us rex) and *Velociraptor* (vuh-LAW-suh-rap-ter) ate only meat. They were carnivores.

Most carnivores are **predators**. That means they hunt other animals, called *prey*. Some carnivores are scavengers. Scavengers eat animals they did not kill themselves.

Velociraptor (vuh-LAW-suh-rap-ter)



🗨️ Being a **predator** was not easy. They often had to fight prey with sharp horns or long claws. If they were hurt and could not hunt, they would die.