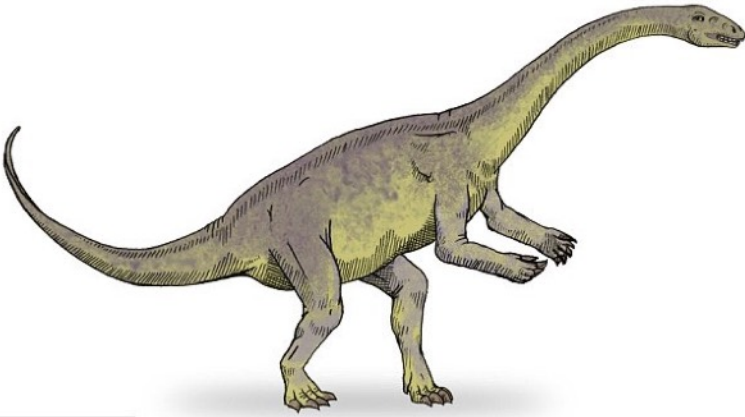


Dinosaurs

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 What are dinosaurs	3-4
Chapter 2 Why did they go extinct	5
Chapter 3 Types of dinosaurs	6-10
Chapter 4 Fun facts about dinosaurs	11-12
Glossary	13
References	14
Standards	15

Chapter 1: What are Dinosaurs

Around 230 million years ago there were creatures that ruled the Earth. They came in all shapes and sizes! They were all different! They ruled the Earth for over 160 million years!

What could these creatures possible be?
Well, they are dinosaurs! They don't exist anymore. They went extinct 65 million years, and because of the environment of the Earth they won't be able to ever live here again.

Chapter 2: Why Did They Go Extinct?

The reason why dinosaurs went extinct isn't really known, because no humans were alive at the time. There are some good hypotheses though, the strongest hypothesis is that there was a huge asteroid, or some major volcanic activity! This could have changed the environment and weather making it impossible for them to survive.

Chapter 3: Types of Dinosaurs

Let's start learning some cool information about dinosaurs! There were two major types of dinosaurs: you had your **carnivores** (meat eaters) and your **herbivores** (plant eaters). You could have a huge herbivore, or a really small carnivore, size didn't matter when it came to what they wanted to eat.

The herbivores did have some cool characteristics though, they would have things like spikes on their bodies and tails, or some really sharp horns attached to their head. They used these characteristics to help keep carnivores away from them. They would use their characteristics as their weapons of defense!

Carnivores were the meat eaters and they were some of the strongest! They had really strong teeth and jaws and that is what helped them tear their meat. Some were really small and would hide in places to scare their prey. Others were really big and would use their size to get prey.

Let's take a look into some more specific types of dinosaurs. We have our **Theropods** which are meat eaters with powerful legs and short arms. There are the **Sauropods** which have long necks, long tails, and walked on all four legs. Then there were the **Stegosaurus** which were slow and had bony plates or spikes.

We can move onto our **Ankylosauira**. These are the dinosaurs that have a bony armor. The **Ceratopsians** have four legs, three horns, and a bony frill. There are the **Ornithopoda**, these were the dinosaurs that walked and ran on their back legs. The last main classification is **Pachycephalosauria**, they had a very thick skull and walked on their back legs.

Chapter 4: Fun Facts About Dinosaurs

Let's talk about a couple cool facts about dinosaurs! Did you know that *dinosaur* actually means frighteningly big lizard? That's kind of funny! The name of a scientist who studies dinosaurs is called a **paleontologist**. The biggest dinosaurs were over 100 feet long and over 50 feet tall. That is huge!

As of right now there are over 330 known species of dinosaurs and the number is still growing! Birds are actually descendants from theropods! We can never know the color of dinosaurs because we only have their **fossils**.

Dinosaurs are so cool and there is still so much we don't know about them. The more time that goes by the more that we get to learn about them!

Glossary

Carnivores: Meat eating animals.

Herbivores: Plant eating animals.

Theropods: Meat eating dinosaur with short arms and powerful legs.

Sauropods: A dinosaur with a long neck, long tail and that walks on all four legs.

Stegosaurus: A dinosaur that was very slow and had bony plates or spikes.

Ankylosauria: A dinosaur with a bony armor.

Ceratopsia: A dinosaur with four legs, three horns, and a bony frill.

Ornithopoda: A dinosaur that walked and ran on its back legs.

Pachycephalosauria: A dinosaur that had a very thick skull and walked on its back legs.

Paleontologist: A scientist that studies dinosaurs.

Fossils: Naturally preserved remains of ancient life that lived in the geological past.

Works Referenced

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Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2. B

Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

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