Dinosaur facts for kids: 33 dinosaurs drawn to scale, and how to say them

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Dinosaur facts for kids: dinosaurs, flying reptiles and sea reptiles drawn to scale beside a child, how to say each name, what it means, and sizes from named sources.

Peabody's dinosaur wing has thirty-eight animals drawn to scale beside a child: thirty-three dinosaurs, two flying reptiles and three sea reptiles that lived alongside them but weren't dinosaurs. This guide started with the first twenty; the wing has since added Archaeopteryx, Brachiosaurus, Giganotosaurus, Maiasaura, the sea reptile Mosasaurus and more. Every size is a scientist's best estimate from bones, and each number says where it came from. This is a guide to the dinosaur wing for a grown-up and a child to read together.

Say their names

The loud part of each name is in capitals. A tip: "-saurus" means lizard, and you say it SORE-us.

- Dinosaur: Tyrannosaurus rex · Say it: tie-RAN-oh-SORE-us REX · The name means: tyrant lizard king
- Dinosaur: Triceratops · Say it: try-SAIR-uh-tops · The name means: three-horned face
- Dinosaur: Stegosaurus · Say it: STEG-oh-SORE-us · The name means: roofed lizard
- Dinosaur: Velociraptor · Say it: veh-LOSS-ih-RAP-ter · The name means: swift thief
- Dinosaur: Brontosaurus · Say it: BRON-toh-SORE-us · The name means: thunder lizard
- Dinosaur: Parasaurolophus · Say it: PAIR-uh-sore-OL-oh-fus · The name means: near crested lizard
- Dinosaur: Pachycephalosaurus · Say it: PACK-ee-SEF-uh-loh-SORE-us · The name means: thick-headed lizard
- Dinosaur: Iguanodon · Say it: ih-GWAH-noh-don · The name means: iguana tooth
- Dinosaur: Gallimimus · Say it: gal-ih-MY-mus · The name means: chicken mimic
- Dinosaur: Dilophosaurus · Say it: die-LOAF-oh-SORE-us · The name means: two-crested lizard
- Dinosaur: Ankylosaurus · Say it: an-KYE-loh-SORE-us · The name means: fused lizard
- Dinosaur: Kentrosaurus · Say it: KEN-troh-SORE-us · The name means: spiked lizard
- Dinosaur: Allosaurus · Say it: AL-oh-SORE-us · The name means: different lizard
- Dinosaur: Styracosaurus · Say it: sty-RACK-oh-SORE-us · The name means: spiked lizard
- Dinosaur: Carnotaurus · Say it: KAR-noh-TOR-us · The name means: meat-eating bull
- Dinosaur: Spinosaurus · Say it: SPY-noh-SORE-us · The name means: spine lizard

- Dinosaur: Therizinosaurus · Say it: THAIR-ih-ZEEN-oh-SORE-us · The name means: scythe lizard
- Dinosaur: Argentinosaurus · Say it: ar-jen-TEEN-oh-SORE-us · The name means: Argentina lizard

The two flyers are Pteranodon (teh-RAN-oh-don, "toothless wing") and Quetzalcoatlus (KET-sul-koh-AT-lus). They were pterosaurs, a separate group of reptiles, so Peabody labels them "not a dinosaur". There's more in the guide to how to say a dinosaur's name.

How big?

These sizes are scientists' estimates, and Peabody labels them that way.

- Tyrannosaurus rex: 12.2 to 13.1 m long (40 to 43 ft), and 3.7 to 4.0 m (12 to 13 ft) at the hips. Its weight goes up to about 16,000 to 18,000 lb (7,300 to 8,200 kg). Source: the US Forest Service.
- Triceratops: up to 9.1 m (about 30 ft), from the US Forest Service.
- Brontosaurus: up to 21 m (about 69 ft) and more than 27,000 kg (about 60,000 lb). The National Park Service gives these figures for its close cousin Apatosaurus.
- Argentinosaurus: more than 36.6 m (about 120 ft) and up to 100,000 kg (about 220,000 lb), from the Smithsonian's educator's guide. Scientists know it from only part of a skeleton, and a blue whale is still heavier: NOAA Fisheries gives 150,000 kg.
- Velociraptor: 1.8 m (5.9 ft), from Wikidata, which cites the Natural History Museum's Dino Directory. It had feathers.
- Quetzalcoatlus: a wingspan of 11 to 11.9 m (36 to 39 ft), from the National Park Service at Big Bend.

For a few, like Therizinosaurus and Pteranodon, Peabody has no checked size yet, and the page says so. Therizinosaurus had the longest claws of any known animal. See the biggest on the biggest dinosaurs list.

Things that surprise kids

- T. rex's arms were tiny, but each one was strong, and its teeth had jagged edges like a steak knife.
- Triceratops had a beak like a parrot's, and new teeth kept growing in as old ones wore down.
- Stegosaurus had a small brain for such a big animal, and its plates stood in two rows.
- Ankylosaurus had bone even in its eyelids, and a heavy club of bone on its tail.
- Pachycephalosaurus had a dome of solid bone on its head. Young ones had flatter heads.
- Dilophosaurus had no neck frill and did not spit poison.
- Therizinosaurus ate plants, though it came from a family of meat-eaters.

Seeing it at scale

Compare Two stands any two animals at true relative size beside a child. Try Triceratops with T. rex, or T. rex with an Asian elephant, or Argentinosaurus with a blue whale. You can also pick any two yourself.

When they lived

Triceratops and T. rex lived at the same time and in the same places, 66 to 68 million years ago, says the US Forest Service. Stegosaurus lived about 150 million years ago, according to the National Park Service at Dinosaur National Monument. That is more than 80 million years before T. rex, so T. rex lived closer in time to you than to Stegosaurus. Try the when did it live quiz.

No race, on purpose

Nobody can time a dinosaur. Bones tell us how big an animal was, not how fast, so Peabody doesn't race dinosaurs. The race page is for animals alive today, by speed only, and Peabody never shows a fight.

Questions grown-ups ask

Were pterosaurs dinosaurs?

No. Pteranodon and Quetzalcoatlus flew over the dinosaurs' heads but belonged to a separate group of reptiles. Birds, on the other hand, are dinosaurs. Peabody says they're the only ones still alive, and the guide are birds dinosaurs tells the story.

How do scientists know how big a dinosaur was?

From fossils, mostly bones, and sometimes from only part of a skeleton. That's why every dinosaur number on Peabody is an estimate and says so.

Is there a dinosaur game?

Yes. Every dinosaur here is a real animal, with its size drawn to scale beside a child. There's also a two-minute page of dinosaur facts.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads. The library has stories for when your child has had enough dinosaurs for one day.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/dinosaur-facts-for-kids