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Opening extract from

A Horrid Factbook: Dinosaurs

Written by

Francesca Simon

Published by

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A HORRID FACTBOOK

HORRID HENRY'S DINOSAURS

Francesca Simon spent her childhood on the beach in California, and then went to Yale and Oxford universities to study medieval history and literature. She now lives in London with her family. She has written over fifty books, and won the Children's Book of the Year in 2008 at the Galaxy British Book Awards for *Horrid Henry and the Abominable Snowman*.

Tony Ross is one of Britain's best-known illustrators, with many picture books to his name as well as line drawings for many fiction titles. He lives in Oxfordshire.

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Illustrated by Tony Ross

The Topsy-Turvies
Illustrated by Emily Bolam

A HORRID FACTBOOK

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Illustrated by Tony Ross

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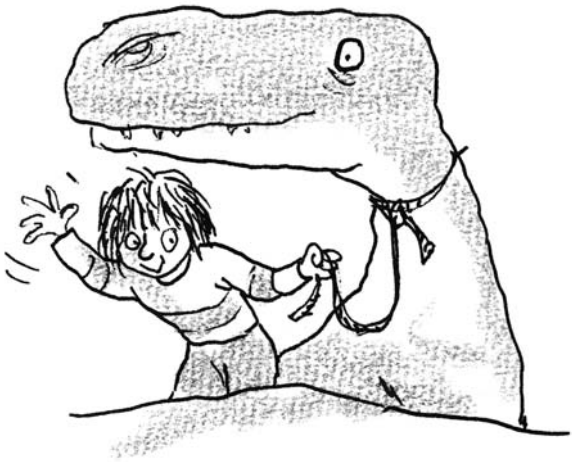
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Dinosaur Hello



Hello fellow dino fans!!!

Welcome to my fantastic new book about all things dinosaur! Wouldn't it be great to have your own Tyranosaurus rex, or Velociraptor, or Giganotosaurus available when pesky people like Moody Margaret dropped by? Or when annoying little brothers kept barging into your bedroom? Or when teachers tried to tell you off? Ha!

Well, if a handy T-rex isn't around when you need one, this blood-curdling, bone crunching, flesh-creeping book will be the next best thing. Just wait til you discover how big a T-rex poo was, or how much it could eat in ONE mouthful . . . (Peter, Margaret, Steve, Bill, Miss Battle-Axe . . .)

Yeah!

Henry

FIRST FACTS

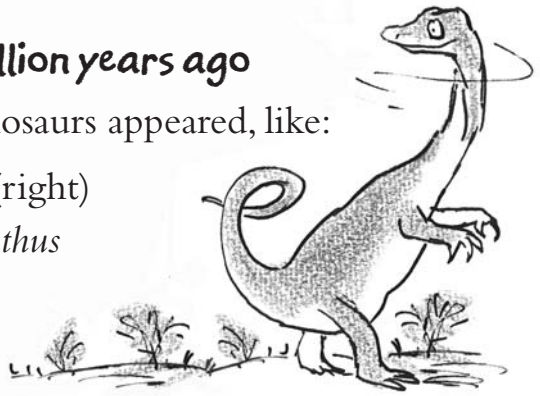


Mesozoic Period
'The Age of the Reptiles'

Triassic
245–208 million years ago

The first dinosaurs appeared, like:

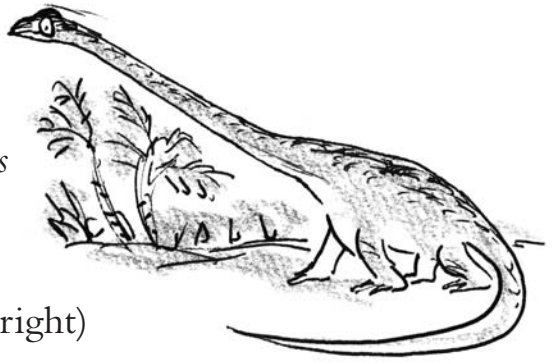
Plateosaurus (right)
Procompsognathus
Saltopus



Jurassic
208–146 million years ago

Different types of dinosaurs spread across the world, like:

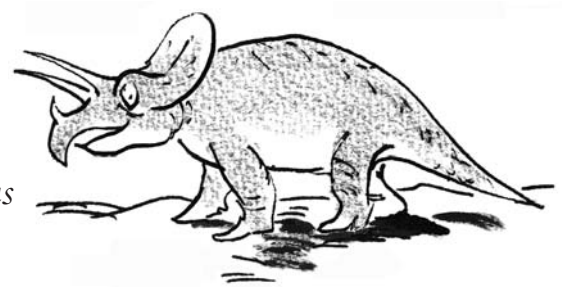
Allosaurus
Apatosaurus
Compsognathus
Diplodocus
Stegosaurus
Brachiosaurus (right)



Cretaceous
146–65 million years ago

Even more different types of dinosaurs appeared, like:

Tyrannosaurus rex
Triceratops (below)
Iguanodon
Ankylosaurus
Deinonychus
Dromaeosaurus
Velociraptor



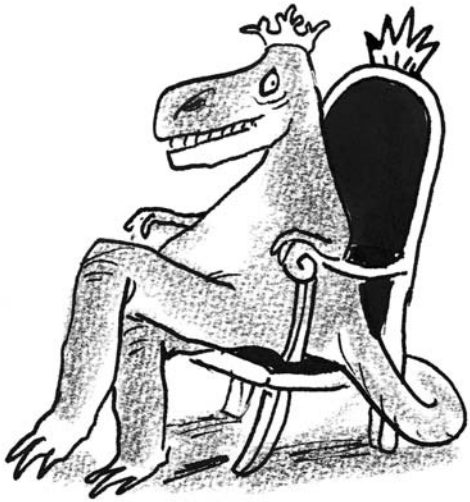
Then all the dinosaurs died out.



The word ‘dinosaur’ means ‘terrible lizard’.

A dinosaur is a type of reptile that stands upright, with its legs positioned directly under its body. Other reptiles, like crocodiles and lizards, have legs that sprawl out to the side.

Dinosaurs ruled the Earth for **160 million years**.



Human beings have only been around for about **4–5 million years**, so we've got a long way to go to beat the dinosaurs' record!

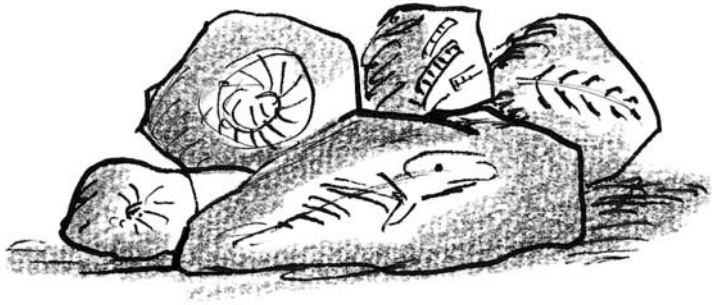


The time when the dinosaurs lived on Earth is called the **Mesozoic** period or 'The Age of the Reptiles'. It is divided into three shorter periods – **Triassic**, **Jurassic** and **Cretaceous**.



Different species of dinosaurs lived during each of these three periods. You might have seen a **Tyrannosaurus rex** bump into a **Stegosaurus** in a film, but it could never have happened in real life.

FANTASTIC FOSSILS



We know lots of amazing facts about dinosaurs because of the fossil rocks discovered by scientists.

Scientists study **dinosaur fossils** and compare their findings with animals that are alive today. That's how we know what dinosaurs looked like.

Fossils aren't always bones – they can be footprints, eggs, skin and even droppings.

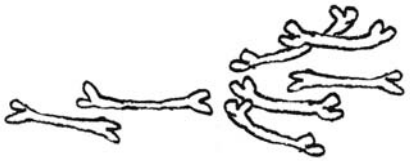


Just like the dinosaurs they discover, the scientists who study them also have a long name – **palaeontologists**.



By working out the age of fossil rocks, palaeontologists can tell when a dinosaur was alive.

People have been digging up dinosaur fossils for **thousands of years** without knowing what they were …



. . . In China about 2,000 years ago, people thought they'd discovered **dragon bones**, and in England in 1676 people believed they'd found a giant's thighbone.



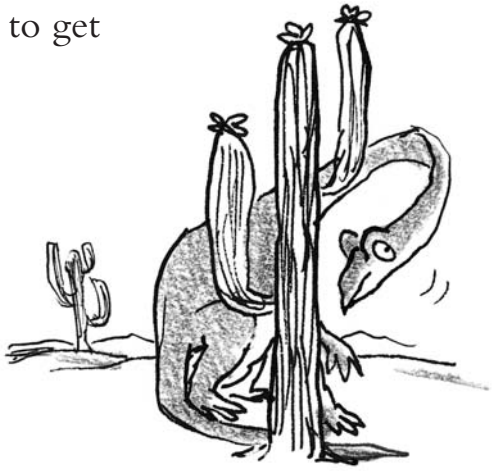


But in fact they were all dinosaur bones!

The first time a scientist realised he'd found the bones of a new and exciting reptile was in England in 1822. He named it **Iguanodon**, meaning **'iguana tooth'**, because its teeth were the same shape as a modern iguana's – but a lot bigger. The name 'dinosaur' wasn't actually invented until nearly **20 years later**.

Dinosaurs have been found everywhere except **Antarctica**, where there's too much snow and ice.

America and Canada are the **best places** to dig for dinosaur fossils, especially in the desert – because there are only a few cactuses to get in the way.



Scientists don't often find a complete skeleton, but they can guess how **big** a dinosaur was from just **one bone**.

Fossil bones sometimes have marks where muscles were attached – this helps scientists to work out the shape of a dinosaur's body.

Did you know that over **650** different kinds of dinosaur have been discovered so far . . . ?

. . . And more than **ten** new dinosaurs are discovered every year!

