

# KNOW YOUR



DINOSAURS



## 6 Things to Know About Dinosaurs

1

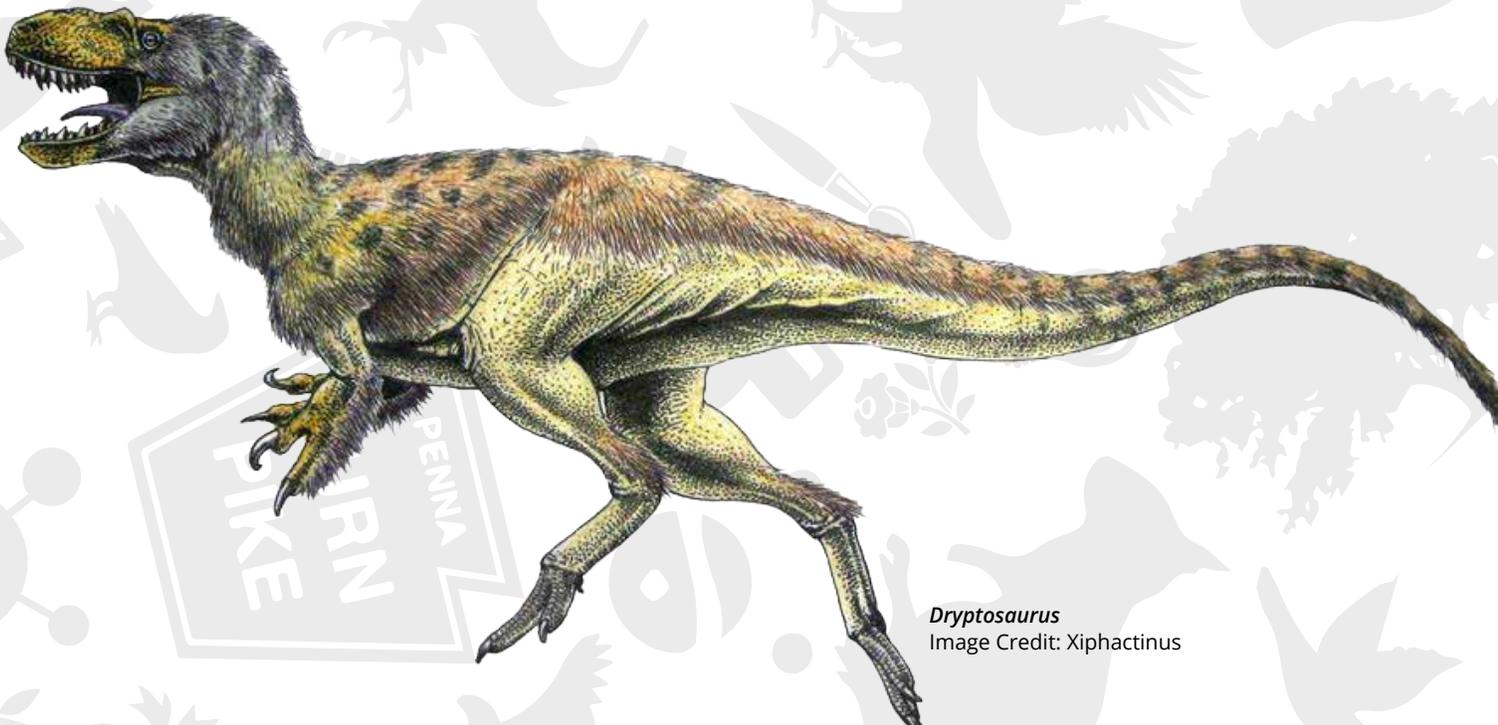
Dinosaurs lived from the Triassic Period (251 million years ago) through the Cretaceous Period (65.5 million years ago). During this time, the climate and lands of Pennsylvania were not conducive to the creation of fossils. Because of this, Pennsylvania today has a very small record of dinosaur fossils only discovered in footprints. The fossilized footprint, shown here, is called an *Atreipus* and was collected in Pennsylvania.



Image Credit: From the collection of The State Museum of Pennsylvania (SMP-VP-541)

2

Lacking a dinosaur fossil record in Pennsylvania, paleontologists make assumptions based on scientific evidence. While most places had distinct species of dinosaurs, groups of dinosaurs often lived in many places so although we would not have had a dinosaur like *Tyrannosaurus rex* in Pennsylvania, we would have had a relative or cousin of *Tyrannosaurus rex* here at the same time that *Tyrannosaurus rex* lived in the western United States. Fossils of *Dryptosaurus*, an eastern relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, were collected in New Jersey.



*Dryptosaurus*

Image Credit: Xiphactinus

3

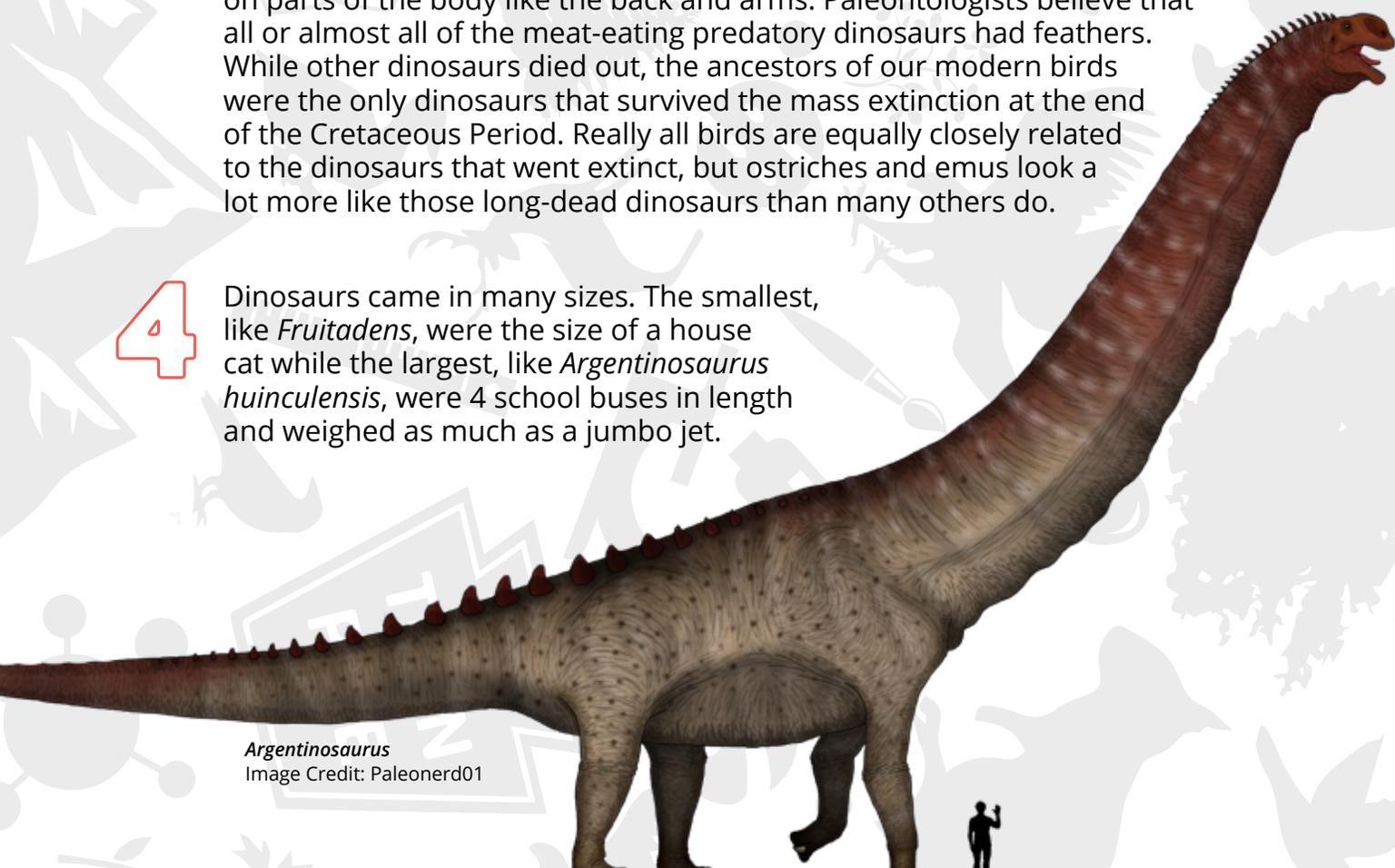


Image Credit: Pixabay

Dinosaurs are still alive today! Birds evolved from small theropod dinosaurs, that walked on two legs. Many dinosaurs had at least some feathers, often on parts of the body like the back and arms. Paleontologists believe that all or almost all of the meat-eating predatory dinosaurs had feathers. While other dinosaurs died out, the ancestors of our modern birds were the only dinosaurs that survived the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period. Really all birds are equally closely related to the dinosaurs that went extinct, but ostriches and emus look a lot more like those long-dead dinosaurs than many others do.

4

Dinosaurs came in many sizes. The smallest, like *Fruitadens*, were the size of a house cat while the largest, like *Argentinosaurus huinculensis*, were 4 school buses in length and weighed as much as a jumbo jet.



*Argentinosaurus*  
Image Credit: PaleonerD01

5

Dinosaurs have been found on every continent, including Antarctica, and we know that dinosaurs were able to live in areas covered in snow...at least part of the time. During the Middle Cretaceous Period (approximately 105 million years ago), Antarctica was not continually covered in a thick layer of ice and snow.

6

While some dinosaurs, like the long-necked sauropods, laid eggs and probably let their young take care of themselves after hatching (like turtles do today), many species, like the duck-billed hadrosaurs and many theropods like the large and famous tyrannosaurs, likely took care of their young for years after they were born.

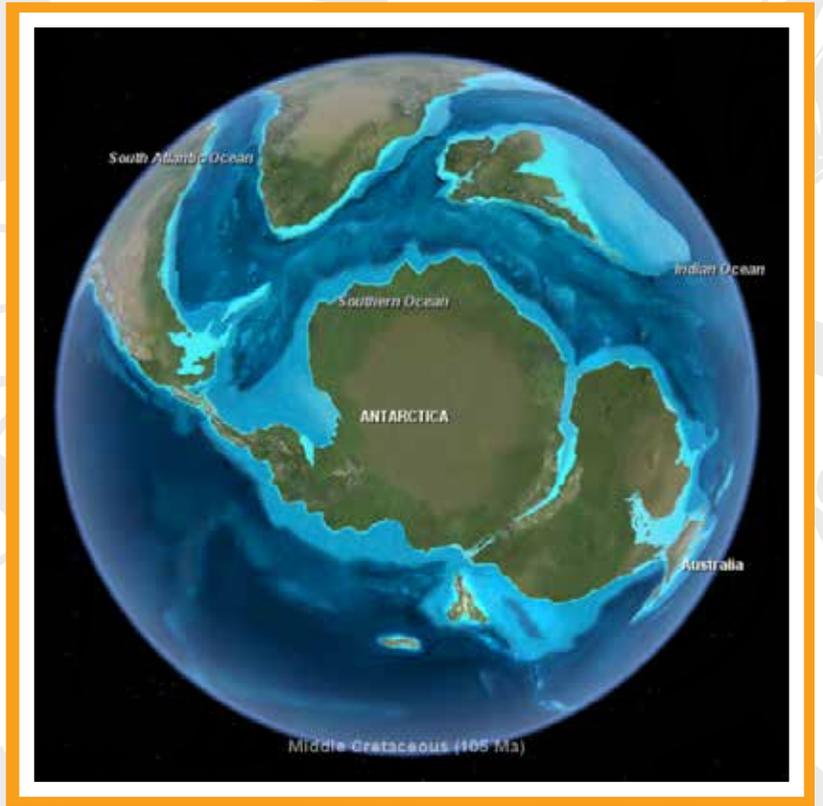


Image Credit: Simulation Curriculum, *The Layered Earth*



Image Credit: Pixabay

# Dinosaurs True or False

TRUE FALSE

1 All dinosaurs were extremely huge, terrifying reptiles and only ate meat.

2 The word "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard".

3 Sauropods were long-necked dinosaurs that were herbivores.

4 Dinosaurs with neck frills and horns all belong to a group of dinosaurs called ceratopsians.

5 Dinosaurs only lived during the Jurassic Period from 201.3 million years ago to 145 million years ago.

6 Only dinosaurs who flew had feathers.

7 Paleontologists make assumptions about dinosaurs based on scientific evidence found on every continent.

8 All dinosaur fossils are from the skeleton of the animal only.

9 Dinosaurs are related to birds.

10 All dinosaurs hatched from eggs.

Answer Key: 1.F, 2.T, 3.T, 4.T, 5.F, 6.F, 7.T, 8.F, 9.T, 10.F