KNOW YOUR DINOSAURS

6 Dinosaurs You Should Get to Know

Everyone seems to know dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Triceratops*, *Velociraptor*, *Stegosaurus*, and *Apatosaurus*. Some people have heard of *Spinosaurus*, *Allosaurus*, *Ankylosaurus*, *Pachycephalosaurus*, *Parasaurolophus*, and *Iguanodon*. However, there are some other really interesting dinosaurs that just never get the spotlight.

1 *Carnotaurus*

This theropod's name means "meat-eating bull", which refers to it being a carnivore ("carno") and having the two horns on its head like a bull ("taurus"). *Carnosaurus* grew to just under 30 feet long, about 3/4 the length of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, but its arms were even smaller than those of *T. rex*. It was the apex predator in its ecosystem but stayed in South America because *Tyrannosaurus rex* and other tyrannosaurs roamed North America.

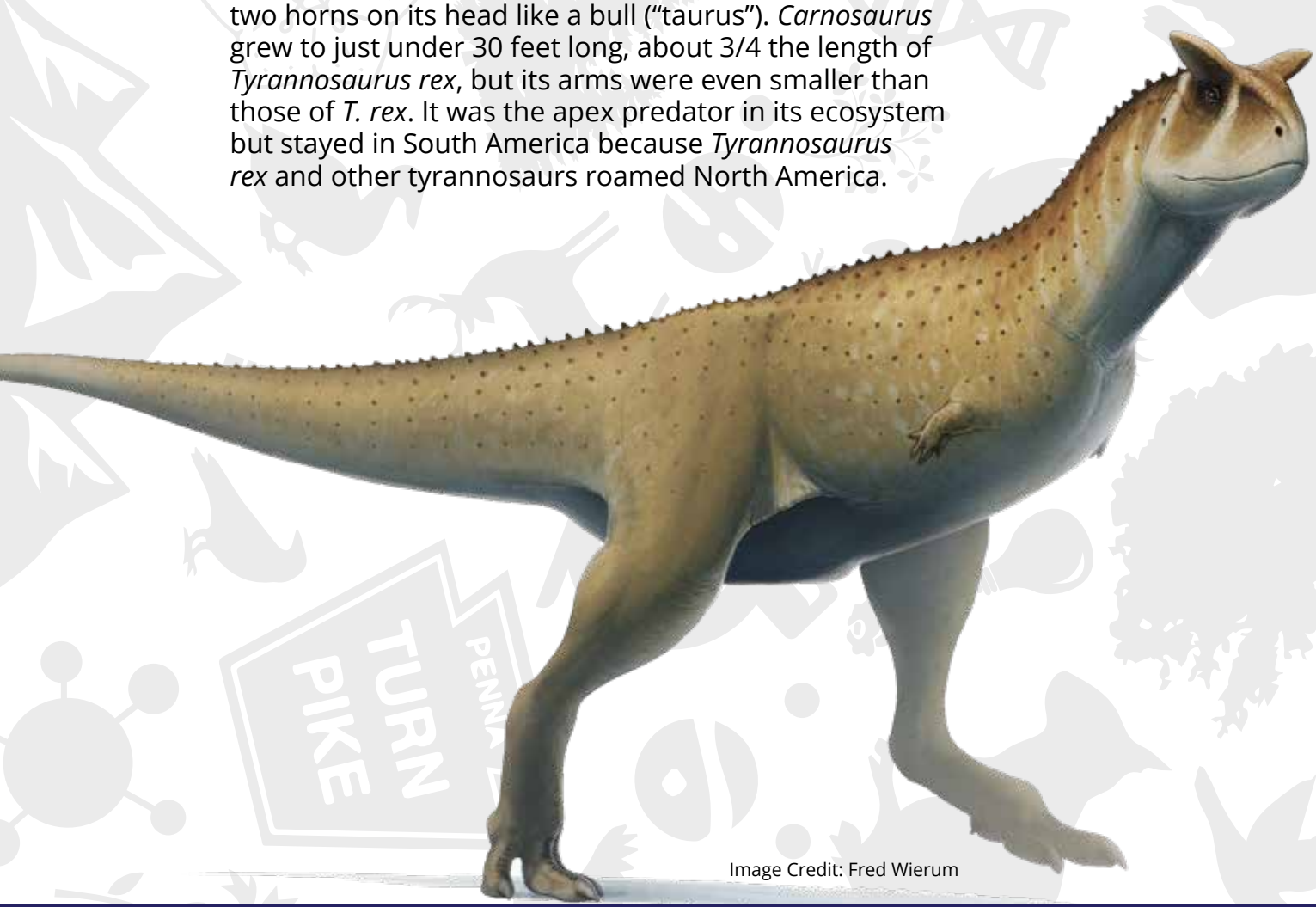

Image Credit: Fred Wierum

2 *Therizinosaurus*

Unlike other theropods, *Therizinosaurus* was probably an herbivore, eating many leaves, branches, and plants. The first fossil found of this dinosaur was a claw. *Therizinosaurus* was 30 feet long and 15 feet tall with 3-foot claws, the largest known for dinosaurs or any animal. These giant claws were definitely helpful in pulling down branches, but also probably used for defense. It moved slowly around its environment, but with claws like that, it probably didn't need to run away from much, not even from a *Tarbosaurus* (the Asian cousin of the *Tyrannosaurus*). *Therizinosaurus* fossils have been found in Mongolia.

Image Credit: PaleoNeolitic

3 Saltasaurus

This long-necked, herbivore dinosaur was relatively small for a sauropod, growing to only about 40 feet long. *Saltasaurus* is interesting because of the bony plates, called osteoderms, embedded in its skin. The bony plates were found mainly over the dinosaur's back and helped to create the armor on dinosaurs like *Ankylosaurus* and on animals today like alligators. Bony plates in the skin of sauropods seems excessive since they were already so large, but large predators were still dangerous to them, or may have evolved the plates for other reasons.

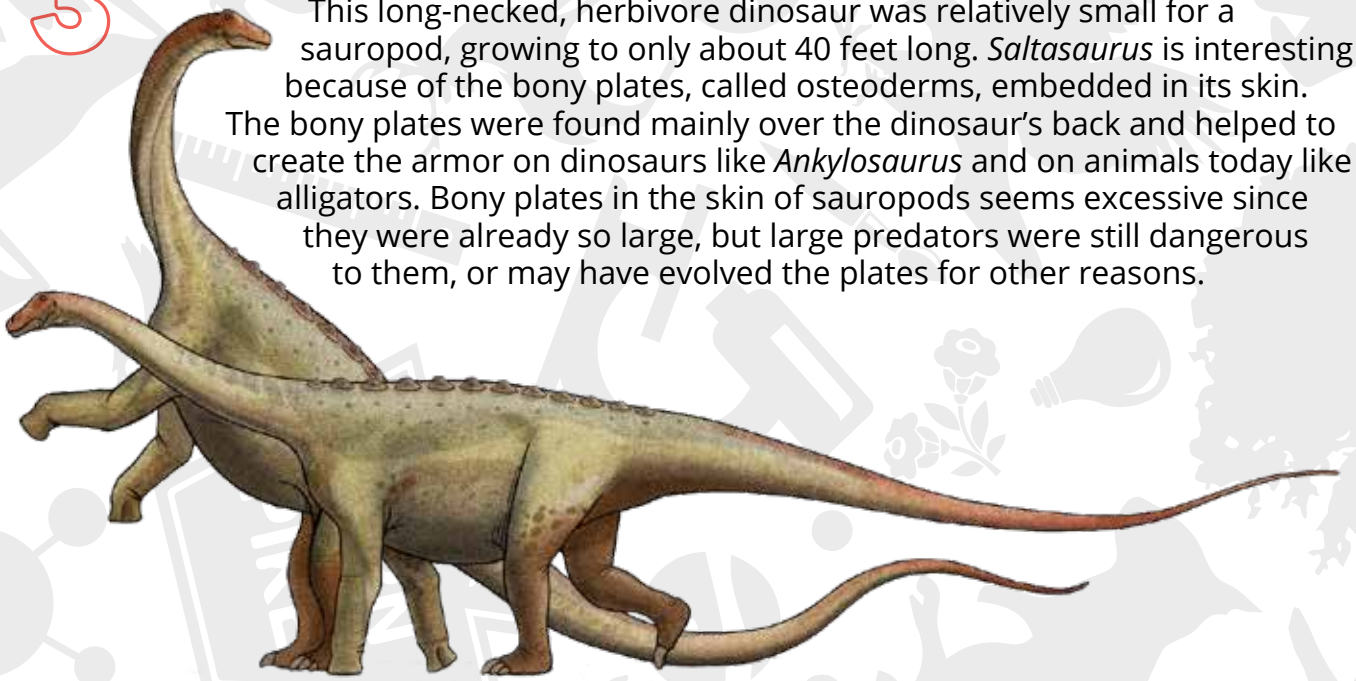

Image Credit: Public Domain

4 Kentrosaurus

A stegosaurid, a relative of *Stegosaurus*, this dinosaur lived at a similar time as *Stegosaurus*. Living in Tanzania in eastern Africa, *Kentrosaurus* was smaller than *Stegosaurus* at about 15 feet long and about 4 feet tall. It has plates down its back that become spikes farther down toward its tail. It also had gigantic spikes coming off its shoulders, helping defend against predators and also making the dinosaur highly distinct.

Image Credit: © N. Tamura

5 Styracosaurus

While lots of people know *Triceratops*, other members of the ceratopsid group had frills that were more complicated and interesting. *Styracosaurus*, who lived a little bit before *Triceratops* and a bit farther north in Canada, had several large spikes coming off its frill. This frill makes the dinosaur look distinctly larger. It was only about 18 feet long and stood almost 6 feet tall. The 2 foot long horn on its nose had an almost 6 inch diameter and surely helped scare away large predators that may have thought about making it a meal.

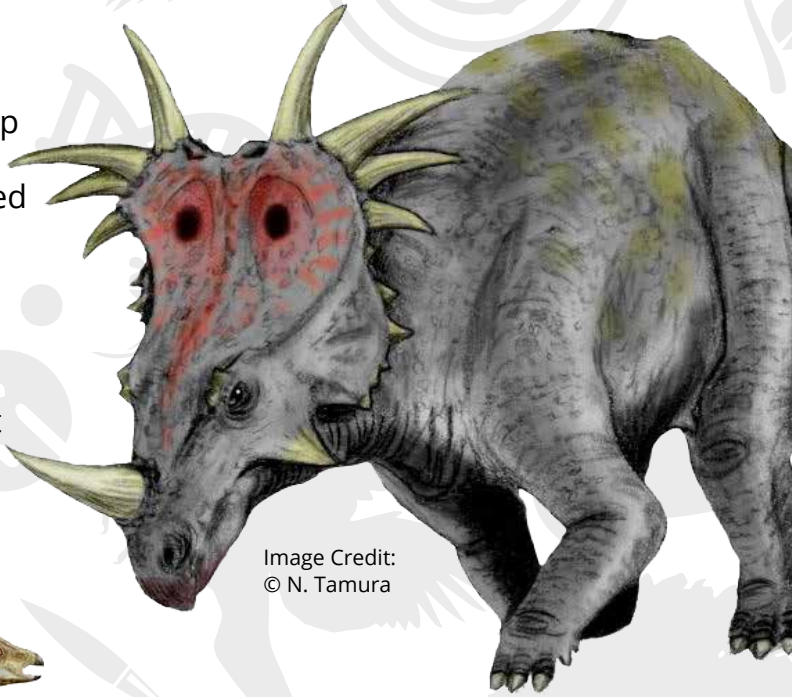

Image Credit: © N. Tamura

Image Credit: Smokeybjb

6 Fruitadens

Dinosaurs come in all shapes and sizes, but many of them were very small. *Fruitadens* was a small plant-eating dinosaur, from a group called the heterodontosaurids who lived in western North America, namely Colorado. This dinosaur was less than 3 feet long, probably closer to just over 2 feet, and would have been found running around the legs of large dinosaurs like *Stegosaurus*, *Brachiosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, and *Apatosaurus*. It had fang-like teeth near the front of its mouth, although these were probably used for display to other heterodontosaurids.

Dinosaur Jumble

Can you untangle the letters in these dinosaur names?

SSYUNUORTANAR	_ _ _ A _ _ _ S _ _ _ U _
PACTROESIRT	_ R _ _ E _ _ _ O _ _
SOEUSNKRRUTA	_ _ _ T _ _ _ A _ _ _ S
EOIATROPRCLV	_ E _ _ _ I _ _ P _ _ R
SUHCACYHARAELSPPOU	P _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ A _ _ S _ _ _ _ S
NSARIDUFTE	_ _ _ I _ _ D _ _ _ _
HIUSUNEZSIOTARR	T _ _ _ _ Z _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _
UEROGSSSATU	_ T _ G _ _ _ _ R _ _
SASTRUPUAOA	_ P _ _ O _ _ _ _ _ _
SRANUAROTCU	C _ _ N _ _ _ _ R _ _
POUUSSSIARN	_ P _ _ O _ _ _ _ _ S
LAURASOULS	_ _ L _ _ A _ _ _ _
CARRUSOSAUTYS	_ _ Y _ _ C _ _ _ U _ _ _
KLSURNYOSUAA	A _ K _ _ _ O _ _ _ _ _ S
SSRAAULAUTS	_ _ L _ _ _ _ U _ _ _
PPRRSSLHUUOOAAA	P _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ _ L _ _ H _ _
UNOAODING	_ G _ _ _ _ D _ _

Arrange the circled letters to form the name of this science!

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Answer Sheet: TYRANNOSAURUS, TRICERATOPS, KENTROSAURUS, VELOCIRAPTOR, PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS, FRUITADENS, THERIZINOSAURUS, STEGOSAURUS, APATOSAURUS, CARNOTAURUS, SPINOSAURUS, ALLOSAURUS, STYRACOSAURUS, ANKYLOSAURUS, SALTASAURUS, PARASAUROLOPHUS, IGUANODON. Circle Answer: PALEONTOLOGY