



## Prehistoric puzzle

**DINO DATA**

**NAME DRACOREX**  
**LIVED** 70-65 million years ago **SIZE** Up to 3m long  
**DISCOVERED** South Dakota, USA **SAY IT** Dray-cuh-rex

With its long, thick skull crowned with bony spikes and horns, this plant-eater has caused debate among experts. Some think the fossils found are from a previously unknown animal. Others believe that it died young, and that if it had lived longer its sharp horns would have grown into deer-like antlers until it became a stygimoloch, an already-known creature. It's full name is *dracorex hogwartsia*, so it's the only dino to be named after Harry Potter's school!



**PREHISTORIC POTTER FAN**

## What a whopper!

**DINO DATA**

**NAME ARGENTINOSAURUS**  
**LIVED** 1,000 million years ago **SIZE** Up to 42m long  
**DISCOVERED** Argentina **SAY IT** Are-jen-teen-oh-sore-us

Some dinosaurs were taller. Some were just as long. But overall, the *argentinosauros* was the biggest, and by far the heaviest, weighing up to 100 tonnes – that's as much as 20 elephants! Still, it didn't look so big in the 'monkey puzzle' forests where it lived – these giant trees can grow to 25m tall! But even the planet's most colossal creature wasn't safe from predators. Although being 10 times lighter, *mapusauruses*, the largest known meat-eating dinosaurs, would hunt *argentinosauros* in packs!



**BIG DOESN'T MEAN BRAVE!**



## Sturdy birdy

**DINO DATA**

**NAME NOTHRONYCHUS**  
**LIVED** 92 million years ago **SIZE** Up to 6m long  
**DISCOVERED** New Mexico, USA **SAY IT** Noth-ron-ee-cuss

Discovered just 10 years ago, the *nothronychus*' distinctive features showed scientists that it is related to the *therizinosauros*, which lived far, far away in what is now Central Asia! With bird-like hips, a big 'pot belly' and four, forward-turning toes on each foot, it walked – slowly! – on its hind legs, leaving its huge but nimble clawed arms free to tear down branches and plants to eat. It seems this creature has a lot to teach us. Before it was found, experts believed that the area where it lived had been under the sea!



**BIG BIRD**



## Skull skills

**DINO DATA**

**NAME PENTACERATOPS**  
**LIVED** 75 million years ago **SIZE** Up to 8m long  
**DISCOVERED** New Mexico, USA  
**SAY IT** Pen-ta-seh-rah-tops

This hefty, horned herbivore still holds the record for the largest skull of any land animal ever. Measuring 3m long, its spectacular skull featured five horns, as well as a huge 'frill' at the back of its head which may have evolved to protect its neck. Experts believe that the horns were too thin to be much use for fighting off big predators and that perhaps they were more for showing off! *Pentaceratops* also had a parrot-like beak for chomping through tough plants. Who's a pretty boy then?



**THAT'S ONE BIG HEAD!**

## Amazing armour

**DINO DATA**

**NAME GASTONIA**  
**LIVED** 125 million years ago  
**SIZE** Up to 5m long  
**DISCOVERED** Utah, USA  
**SAY IT** Gas-tone-ee-ah

When it comes to being well-defended, this mighty plant-eater is pretty hard to beat. Weighing in at about a tonne – as heavy as a large car – its body was covered in tough bony plates. Huge spikes up to 30cm long grew from the *gastonia*'s shoulders, back and along its sides, while thick layers of bone protected its brain and a smooth plate across its hips guarded its spine. On its powerful tail, double rows of jagged barbs lined each side so the animal could lash out at attackers. Nasty!



**SUPER-SPINEY SPINE**



## DID YOU KNOW...?

A recently-discovered *anchiornis* fossil was so well preserved you could see that it had black and white feathers and a reddish head. Amazing!



For more dino-mite adventures, check out the *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Kids Dinopedia* book, available at Waterstone's and other good book retailers now.