

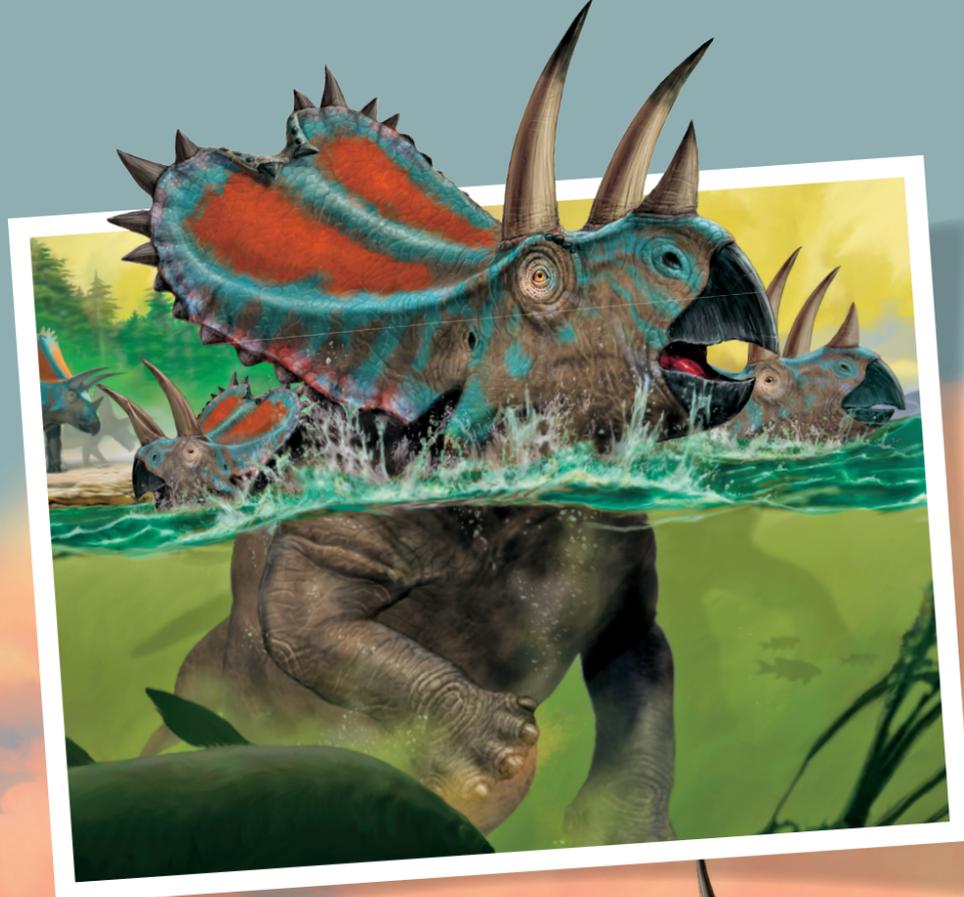


Prehistoric puzzle

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!



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?



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!



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!



DID YOU KNOW...?

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

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 therizinosaur, 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!



Illustrations: Franco Tempata.



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