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Science

Science

Life Science

Dinosaur Detectives

by Beth Lewis



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sequence• Draw Conclusions• Monitor and Fix Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Captions• Labels

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1.2.4



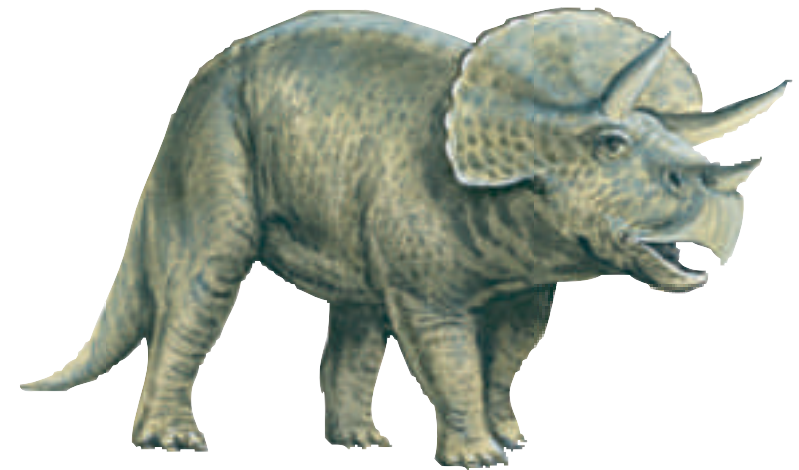
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Dinosaurs were animals that lived millions of years ago. Then they became extinct. This means they don't exist anymore. To find out about dinosaurs, we need to become dinosaur detectives. We need to find fossils. A fossil is a part or a print of a plant or animal that lived a long time ago.



These are allosaurus fossils.

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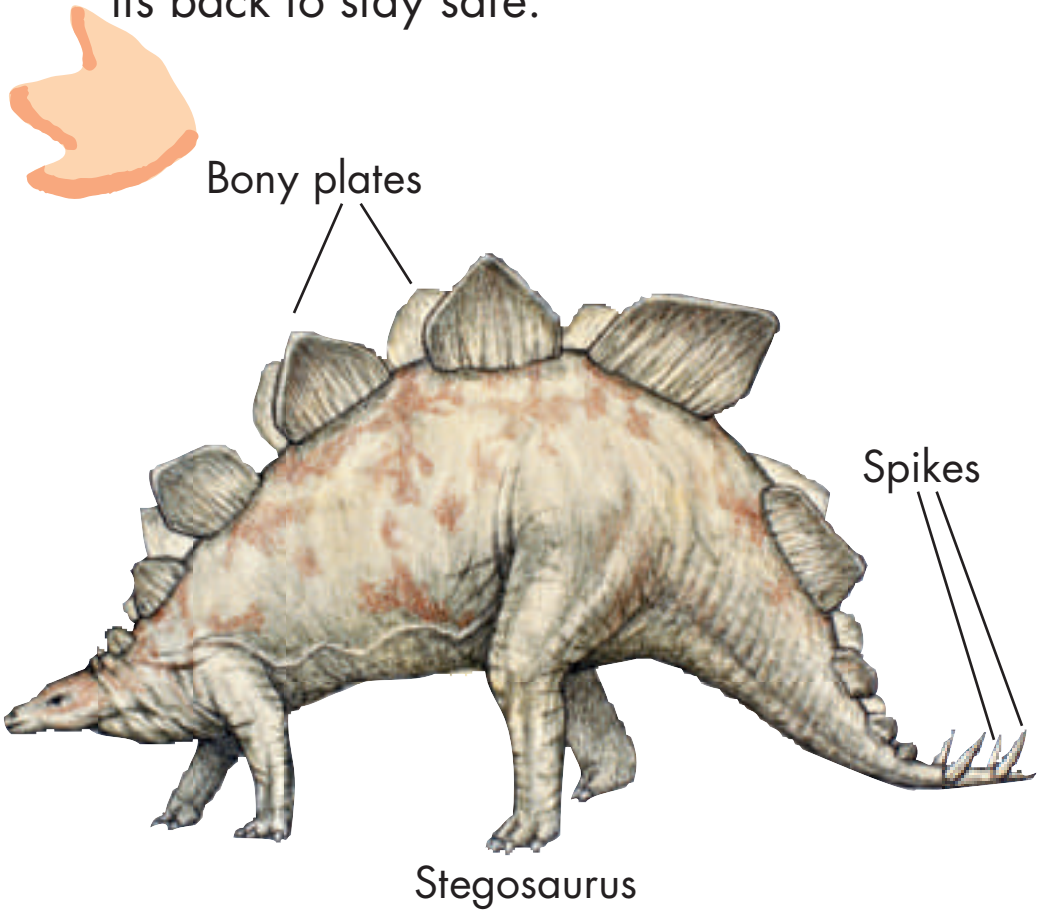
Some fossils show that dinosaurs had ways to stay safe. They had to protect themselves from other dinosaurs, or maybe other kinds of animals. We can look at fossils to see how each kind of dinosaur might have protected itself from an enemy.



This is a fossil of an apatosaurus's claw.



The stegosaurus had a row of bones running down its back. It also had sharp spikes on its long tail. It protected itself by swinging its tail back and forth. It may also have used the bony plates on its back to stay safe.

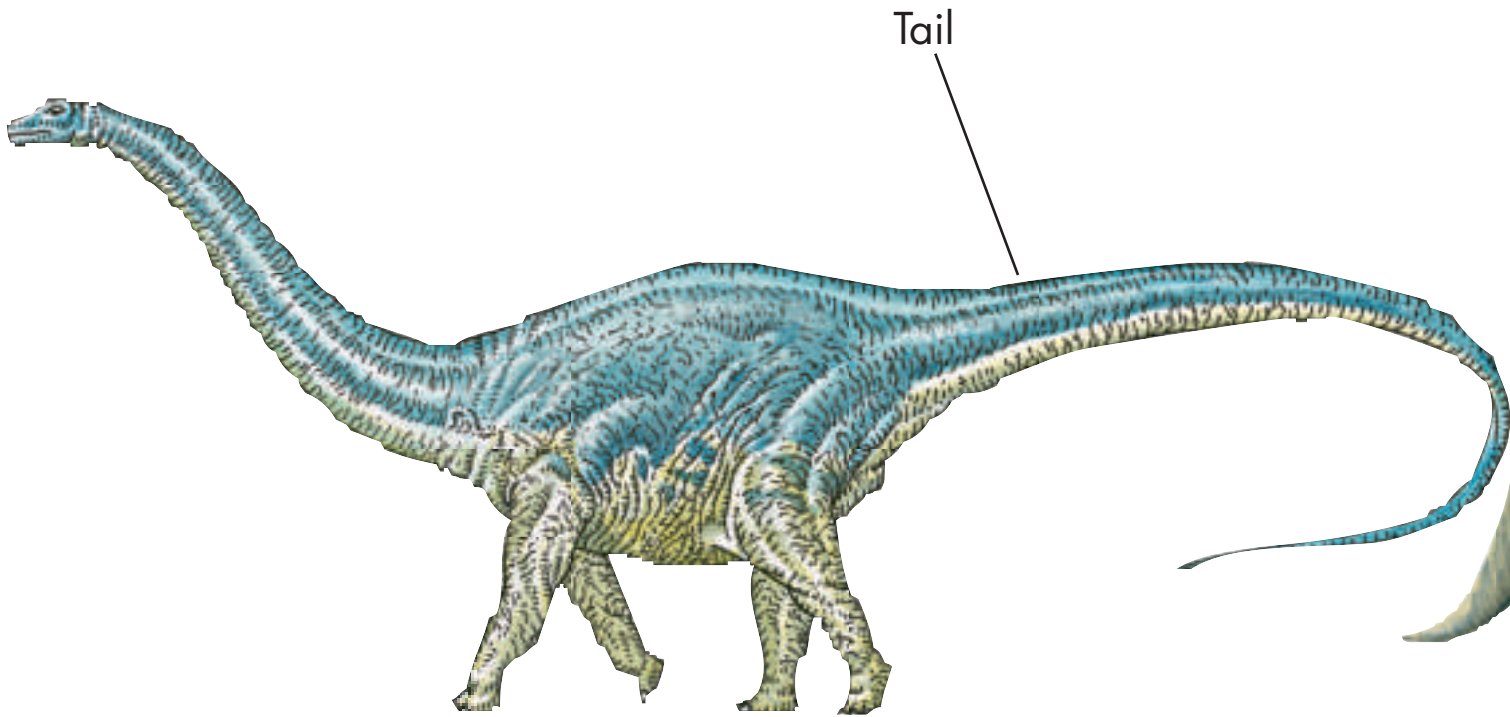




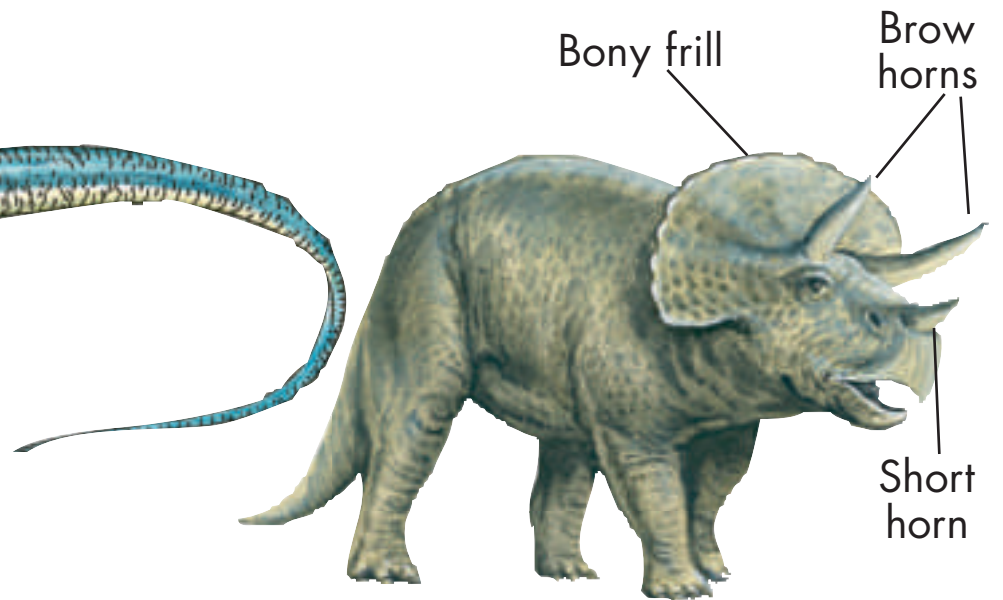
The apatosaurus was very big. We think it was so big that it needed to spend most of its time eating! Its size might have been enough to keep it safe. But the apatosaurus also might have used its tail to help fight off its enemies.



The triceratops had many ways to protect itself. It was a very big dinosaur. It probably lived and traveled in a herd. It might have been easier to stay safe in this group. The triceratops had three large horns. It had bones on its neck and shoulders. These things protected the triceratops.



Apatosaurus

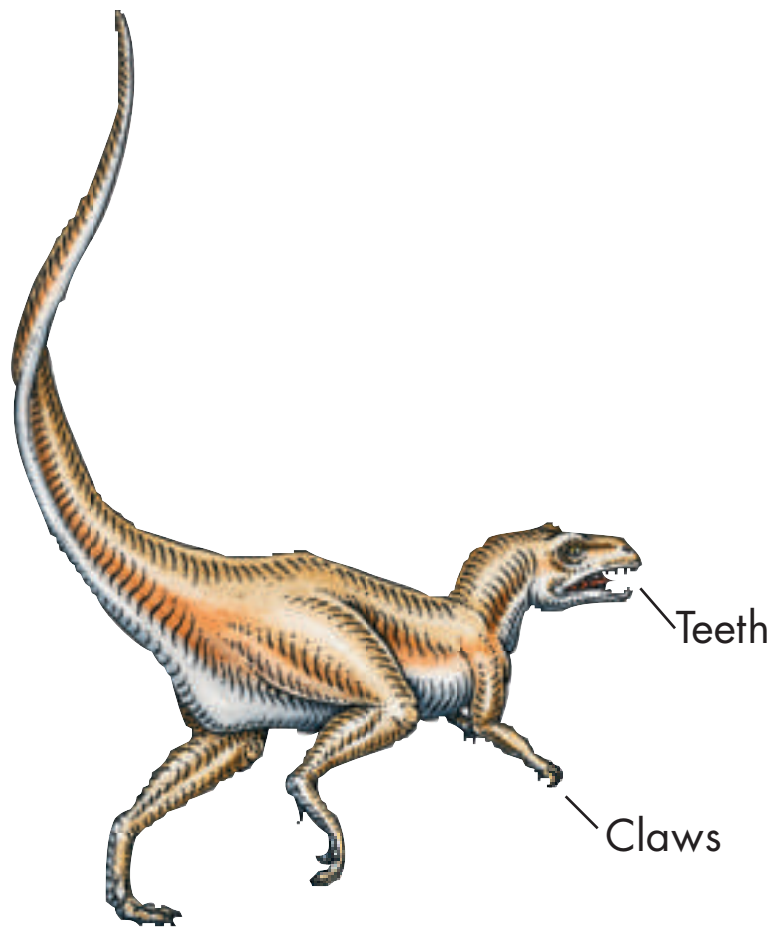


Triceratops





Scientists think the allosaurus hunted many plant-eating dinosaurs. These hunters also needed ways to stay safe. The allosaurus had a large jaw and long, sharp teeth. That might have been enough to protect the allosaurus. But it also had three sharp claws on each front foot!



Allosaurus



These are just some of the things fossils have told us about dinosaurs. There is so much more to learn. When we put fossil clues together, we'll be dinosaur detectives. If you keep learning about dinosaurs, you can be a dinosaur detective too!



This is a fossil of dinosaur footprints.

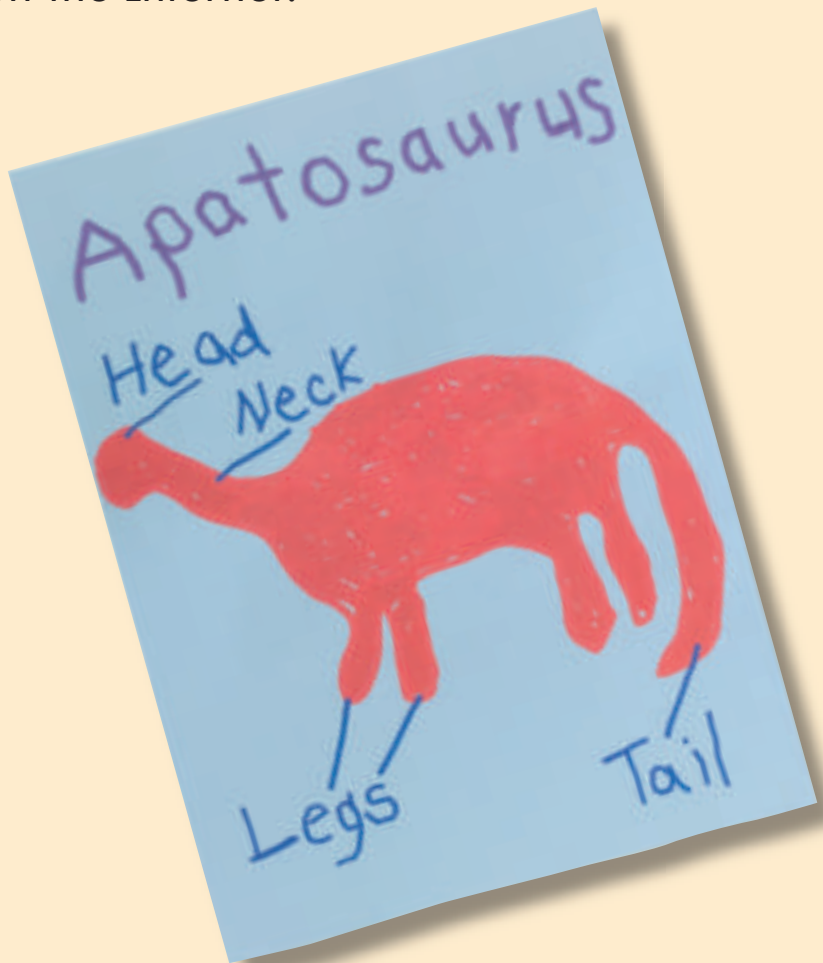




Now Try This

Become a Dinosaur Detective

You can be a dinosaur detective even if you can't search for fossils. Instead, you can search for information about dinosaurs in books, in magazines, and on the Internet.



Here's How to Do It!

1. Find out about a dinosaur. It can be one you read about in this book or another one. Use a book, a magazine article, or even a Web site.
2. Write the name of the dinosaur you read about at the top of a large sheet of drawing paper.
3. Draw a picture of the dinosaur. Be sure to include as many details as you can.
4. Label the parts of the dinosaur, such as the head, neck, claws, teeth, legs, and tail. Draw a line to each part and write the word or words that tell about the part.
5. Share your dinosaur diagram with the class. Point to and name the dinosaur parts you labeled.





Think and Share

1. What dinosaurs did you read about in this book? Copy the chart on your paper. Write the names of the dinosaurs in the order you read about them.

1. First	
2. Next	↓
3. Then	↓
4. Last	↓

2. What were some ways the triceratops protected itself? Reread page 7 to check your answer.
3. What does the word *extinct* mean? Use it in a complete sentence.
4. Look at the picture of the allosaurus on page 8. What parts are labeled? What parts are not labeled?

