

Sample Lesson

Tyrannosaurus rex

Tyrannosaurus means “tyrant lizard.” (A tyrant is a cruel, powerful ruler.) Rex means “king.” *Tyrannosaurus rex* is the tyrant lizard king! It is called *T. rex* for short.

T. rex was a huge meat-eating dinosaur. It lived 65 to 85 million years ago. Many scientists believe *T. rex* was not only a hunter, but also a scavenger. That means it looked for and ate dead animals.

The giant dinosaur walked on two legs. It had tiny arms. Each arm had two clawed fingers. Its tail was strong and pointed. The tail helped *T. rex* balance and allowed it to move quickly.

These dinosaurs had huge heads. Scientists have found *T. rex* skulls that are 5 feet long! The *T. rex* also had large, pointed teeth and strong jaw muscles. It used its powerful jaw and huge teeth to crush bones and rip through flesh. Scientists believe the *T. rex* hunted young *Triceratops*.

T. rex was about 40 feet long. It stood 15–20 feet tall. It was one of the largest meat-eating creatures of all time. It weighed about 6 tons, which is 12,000 pounds. The *T. rex* had rough bumpy skin, like an alligator.

Tyrannosaurus rex lived in the forests and river valleys of North America. People have found many skeleton fossils in the western part of the United States. There are *T. rex* skeletons in museums around the world. One of the largest and most complete skeletons is named “Sue.” It is at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. This dinosaur was named after Sue Hendrickson. She discovered it in South Dakota in 1990. The museum paid more than 8 million dollars for the skeleton!

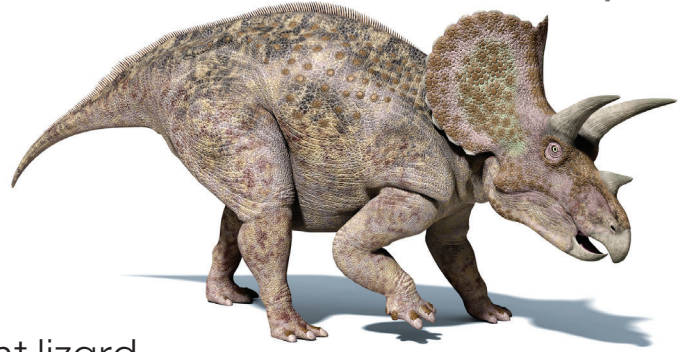


Tyrannosaurus rex

1. Where did the *Tyrannosaurus rex* live?

- A) in the mountains
- B) in forests and river valleys
- C) in the desert

Triceratops



2. What does *Tyrannosaurus* mean?

T. rex two lizards tyrant lizard

3. What did the *T. rex* eat? _____

4. Use the artist’s drawings and the text. Fill in the chart. The first one is done for you.

	<i>Tyrannosaurus rex</i>	<i>Triceratops</i>
lived at the same time	✓	✓
frill of bone on skull		
walked on 4 legs		
large pointed tail		
walked on 2 legs		
had 3 horns		

5. The *Tyrannosaurus* had skin like_____.

a camel a whale an alligator none of these

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?

- A) Dinosaurs killed each other.
- B) *T. rex* had a strong powerful head and jaw.
- C) Many museums have dinosaur bones.