

Early Cretaceous Period

137 Million Years Ago

UTAHRAPTOR

(You-tah-rap-ter)

Large, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and hooked claw on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 7 METERS

WEIGHT: 450 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Like other dromaeosaurs (raptors), Utahraptor would have been able to use its hooked shape toe claw (up to 24cm long!) to kick and slice into prey animals such as iguanodonts. It may have also hunted in packs from time to time.

DIET: Carnivore- Likely fed on other dinosaur species, small mammals and reptiles

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Utahraptor could be best compared with modern grey wolves - quick, capable predators at the top of their food chains.

Late Cretaceous Period

66 Million Years Ago

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

(Tie-ran-o-sore-us Rex)

Large, two-legged dinosaur with small arms ending in two clawed fingers. Large head with sharp teeth.



LENGTH: OVER 12 METERS

WEIGHT: 8,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Front-facing eyes with excellent depth perspective and long-range vision. Teeth replaced indefinitely like modern sharks and crocodiles. Strongest bite force of any animal ever - equivalent of having a small car dropped on top of you.

DIET: Carnivore- ate large herbivores such as Triceratops and Edmontosaurus.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Apex predator similar to lions and tigers.

Early Cretaceous Period

110 Million Years Ago

TUPUXUARA

Large pterosaur (Terr-oh-sore) with broad, flat head crest and long, sharp beak.

(Too-poo-h-hwuar-ah)



LENGTH: 5 METER WINGSPAN

WEIGHT: 25 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Tupuxuara was NOT a dinosaur but a pterosaur. Pterosaurs (Terr-oh-sores) were flying reptiles, closely related to and alive at the same time as dinosaurs. Head crest was likely an indication of maturity and could have been used to attract mates. Large wingspan likely allowed Tupuxuara to fly across great distances. When on the ground, Tupuxuara may have moved similarly to a giraffe.

DIET: Omnivore -likely feeding on a mix of shoots, roots, and animals such as small reptiles and mammals.

LOCATION: Brazil

MODERN COMPARISON: Tupuxuara are perhaps most comparable to The Waldraap Ibis, potentially nesting and resting on cliff edges and eating a variety of foods.

Late Cretaceous Period

77 Million Years Ago

TROODON

(Troh-oh-don)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and hooked claws on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 2.5 METERS

WEIGHT: 35 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Troodon had an unusually large brain, relative to body size. This suggests it was rather intelligent. It also had large eyes, suggesting a nocturnal lifestyle. They had hooked claw on the inside of each foot, possibly for catching prey.

DIET: Carnivore- likely fed on small mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISONS: Due to its intelligence, Troodon could be compared to modern corvids such as crows and magpies.

Late Cretaceous Period

66 Million Years Ago

TRICERATOPS

Large dinosaur with three horned head and bony frill over the back of its head.

(Try-ser-ah-tops)



LENGTH: 8 METERS

WEIGHT: 7,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Triceratops had a small horn above its nostril and two longer horns (up to 2 meters long!) above the eyes. These would have been used to compete for mates and defend against predators like T. rex. Their frill was likely used to display to potential mates with bright colours.

DIET: Herbivore - would have cropped plants with its short beak before chewing them in its mouth.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Most comparable to modern rhinos. Both species have horns on the front of their heads, used for defence.

Late Cretaceous Period

76 Million Years Ago

STENONYCHOSAURUS

(Sten-on-ike-o-sore-us)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and hooked claw on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 2.5 METERS

WEIGHT: 35 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Stenonychosaurus had somewhat manipulative fingers, which may have enabled them to grasp and hold on to small prey animals or other items. They were not opposable, however, and so could not have been used for the complex manipulation of objects.

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Carnivore. Likely fed on small reptiles, invertebrates, and eggs.

MODERN COMPARISON: Stenonychosaurus might be compared to lesser primates such as lemurs and small monkeys due to their relative intelligence.

Late Jurassic Period

150 Million Years Ago

STEGOSAURUS

(Steg-oh-sore-us)

Large dinosaur with staggered back plates and four large spikes at the end of their tail.



LENGTH: 7 METERS

WEIGHT: 5,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Stegosaurus is famous for the staggered rows of plates running down its back. These were covered in a layer of keratin and were used for defence. Tail spikes, which were called thagomizers, could have been swung around for the same purpose.

DIET: Herbivore - likely fed on roots, shoots and small leaves.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Stegosaurus are probably most comparable to modern hedgehogs and porcupines who use their spiny quills as defence.

Late Cretaceous Period

75 Million Years Ago

PARASAUROLOPHUS

(Pa-rah-sore-all-o-fuss)

Large, four-legged dinosaur with long, bony crest protruding from the back of its head.



LENGTH: 9 METERS

WEIGHT: 5,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Parasaurolophus could move around on two legs for short periods of time. The crest likely served as a means of communication, sound amplification and body temperature regulation.

DIET: Herbivore - would have cropped plants with its broad beak, before chewing them in its mouth.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Comparable to wildebeest and bison, large herbivores moving great distances in large groups to find food.

Late Cretaceous Period

68 Million Years Ago

PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS

(Pack-ee-sef-a-low-sore-us)

Medium-sized, two-legged dinosaur with large, domed head and pointed beak.



LENGTH: 4.5 METERS

WEIGHT: 450 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Pachycephalosaurus is known for the large dome on its head. This dome is made of bone, and could be up to 25cm thick to protect the brain. It was likely used by males competing for mates and territory, wherein two individuals stood parallel to each other and swung their heads into each other's torso.

DIET: Possibly omnivore. Teeth shape suggests they may have eaten leaves and seeds, but possibly also some meat. Still debated by scientists.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Pachycephalosaurus is best compared to goats and rams.

Late Cretaceous Period

73 Million Years Ago

OVIRAPTOR

(Oh-vee-rap-ter)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with prominent head crest and large, round beak.



LENGTH: 1.6 METERS

WEIGHT: 36 KG

ADAPTATIONS: As with modern birds, Oviraptors were likely covered in feathers which would have been advantageous when incubating their eggs in the nest. They likely also reared their young, at least in the earliest stages of their lives.

DIET: Omnivore. Most likely ate small animals alongside leaves, seeds and nuts.

LOCATION: Mongolia

MODERN ANALOGUES: Oviraptor are often compared to Parrots particularly given that both have large round beaks suited for crushing seeds and nuts.

Late Cretaceous Period

78 Million Years Ago

MAIASAURA

(My-ah-sore-ah)

Large, four-legged dinosaur with broad beak and small crest between the eyes



LENGTH: 9 METERS

WEIGHT: 4,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Maiasaura had little in the way of weaponry, but likely moved in herds comprised of a variety of different age groups which would have offered it some protection from predators.

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Herbivore - likely a generalist that fed on the leaves of trees as well as low-growing plants. Generalist species can eat a variety of foods and thrive in a range of habitats.

MODERN COMPARISON: Maiasaura could be best compared to modern zebras, moving in large herds to find food and keep safe from predators.

Late Triassic Period

210 Million Years Ago

LESSEMSAURUS

(Less-em-sore-us)

Large, four-legged dinosaur with a long neck and small head.



LENGTH: 10 METERS

WEIGHT: 7,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Lessemsaurus was one of the earliest ancestors of the Sauropod, (giant, long-necked) dinosaurs such as Brachiosaurus and Diplodocus. Like its descendants, it had a long neck which allowed it to reach large amounts of food without having to move its whole body.

DIET: Herbivore—likely stripped the leaves from cycads and fed on tall ferns.

LOCATION: Argentina

MODERN COMPARISON: Lessemsaurus are perhaps most comparable to modern elephants, both are large herbivores who have little to no natural predators at full size.

Late Triassic Period

230 Million Years Ago

HERRERASAURUS

Small, two-legged dinosaur with long, three fingered arms.

(Her-air-ah-sore-us)



LENGTH: 6 METERS

WEIGHT: 350 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Herrerasaurus is one of the earliest known dinosaurs. Like all dinosaurs and modern mammals, its legs sat underneath its body, allowing it to move quicker than other animals it lived alongside and possibly avoid being predated upon itself.

DIET: Carnivore -likely fed on small mammals and reptiles and scavenged from the prey of large terrestrial crocodiles it lived alongside.

LOCATION: Argentina

MODERN COMPARISONS: Herrerasaurus are perhaps most comparable to modern dholes, coyotes or African painted dogs, capable predators but also at the mercy of larger, more dangerous predators.

Early Cretaceous Period

137 Million Years Ago

GASTONIA

(Gas-tone-ee-ah)

Short, four-legged dinosaur covered in thick armour. Large vertical shoulder spikes and no tail club.



LENGTH: 5 METERS

WEIGHT: 1,900 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Like all ankylosaurs, Gastonia's body was almost entirely covered in a thick armour plating. Its low, squat stature would have made it difficult for predators to get to the softer tissue on the underside of its body.

DIET: Herbivore. Likely fed on the leaves and roots of low growing plants.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Gastonia are most comparable to modern armoured animals like pangolins and tortoises. However, Gastonia would not have been able to curl up or retract its limbs in the same way these modern animals do.

Late Cretaceous Period

70 Million Years Ago

GALLIMIMUS

(Gal-ee-mime-us)

Large, two-legged dinosaur with small, narrow head, and long, three-fingered arms.



LENGTH: 6 METERS

WEIGHT: 450 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Gallimimus' long neck was quite flexible, allowing it to reach plants at a variety of different heights. They also swallowed stones (gastroliths) to help with the break down of tough plant matter.

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Herbivore- likely fed on seeds, nuts and leaves.

MODERN COMPARISON: Gallimimus could be best compared to modern ostriches, likely moving in flocks and feeding on low growing plants.

Late Cretaceous Period

75 Million Years Ago

EUOPLOCEPHALUS

(You-op-low-seff-a-lus)

Large, four-legged dinosaur covered in armour plating with a bony club at the end of its tail.



LENGTH: 5.3 METERS

WEIGHT: 2,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Euoplocephalus was covered almost entirely in thick osteoderms (bones which grow directly under the skin) which created an armour like appearance to defend from predators. It also had a large bony club at the end of its tail which it could have swung at predators like a mallet.

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Herbivore. Likely fed on low the leaves, shoots, and roots of low-growing plants.

MODERN COMPARISON: Euoplocephalus is most comparable to modern armoured animals such as tortoises, pangolins, and armadillos. However, Euoplocephalus would not have been able to curl up or retract its limbs in the same way these modern animals do.

Late Cretaceous Period

75 Million Years Ago

DROMAEOSAURUS

(Droh-may-oh-sore-us)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and hooked claw on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 2 METERS

WEIGHT: 16 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Like other dromaeosaurs (raptors), Dromaeosaurus had large hook-shaped claws on the inner most toe of each foot which they likely used to pin down prey animals. Feathered arms and stiff tail likely allowed for greater balance and quick turns when moving at speed

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Carnivore. Likely to have fed on other small dinosaurs as well as small mammals, reptiles, and eggs

MODERN COMPARISON: Dromaeosaurus is most comparable to modern cheetahs – fast, opportunistic predators who are also preyed upon themselves.

Early Cretaceous Period

110 Million Years Ago

DEINONYCHUS

(Die-non-ee-kus)

Small, two-legged dinosaur covered in feathers and with a large hook shaped claw on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 3 METERS

WEIGHT: 75 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Like other Dromaeosaurs (raptors), Deinonychus had large hook-shaped claws on the innermost toe of each foot which they likely used to pin down prey animals. Feathered arms and a stiff tail likely allowed for greater balance and quick turns when moving at speed.

DIET: Carnivore- likely fed on similarly sized or smaller dinosaurs and other animals and scavenging from the prey of larger predators.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Deinonychus are compared to modern birds of prey such as hawks and eagles, who dive and pin down their prey.

Late Jurassic Period

148 Million Years Ago

ARCHAEOPTERYX

(Ar-key-op-ter-icks)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with feathered wings and long feathered tail.



LENGTH: 0.5 METERS

WEIGHT: 1 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Archaeopteryx possessed heavily feathered arms and tail, not unlike modern birds, which may have enabled it to glide over short distances. It may have also been a climber, though this is still debated.

LOCATION: Germany

DIET: Carnivore -likely fed on small reptiles, invertebrates, and eggs.

MODERN COMPARISON: Archaeopteryx could be best compared to Abyssinian ground hornbills – birds which spend a lot of time on the ground but may also leap into trees and other heights for safety or to nest.

Late Jurassic Period

150 Million Years Ago

ALLOSAURUS

(All-o-sore-us)

Two-legged dinosaur with sharp, three-clawed hands and bony crests above their eyes.



LENGTH: 8.5 METERS

WEIGHT: 2,300 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Allosaurus had a very wide gape - (up to 90°!) allowing it to quickly grab and bite down into prey. It also had strong arms and sharp claws for cutting and pinning down prey.

DIET: Carnivore - known to have preyed on other dinosaurs like Stegosaurus and possibly the young of sauropods like Brachiosaurus and Diplodocus.

LOCATION: North America

MODERN COMPARISON: Comparable to modern hyenas, as large predators feeding mostly on smaller prey.

Early Cretaceous Period

137 Million Years Ago

VELOCIRAPTOR

(Vel-os-ee-rap-ter)

Small, two-legged dinosaur with large eyes and hooked claw on the inside of each foot.



LENGTH: 2 METERS

WEIGHT: 20 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Like other dromaeosaurs (raptors), Velociraptor had large hook shaped claws on the inner most toe of each foot which they most likely used to pin down prey. Feathered arms and stiff tail likely allowed for greater balance and quick turns when moving at speed. Much smaller than how they're portrayed in the Jurassic Park films, whose raptors are more comparable to Utahraptor in stature!

LOCATION: Mongolia and China

DIET: Carnivore - known to have fed on other small dinosaurs such as Protoceratops, but also likely ate small mammals and reptiles, and eggs.

MODERN COMPARISON: Velociraptor could be best compared to modern cheetahs - fast, opportunistic predators who are also preyed upon themselves.

Late Jurassic Period

154 Million Years Ago

BRACHIOSAURUS

Massive, long neck dinosaur with giraffe like body.

(Brack-ee-oh-sore-us)



LENGTH: 22 METERS

WEIGHT: 40,000 KG

ADAPTATIONS: Its height would have allowed Brachiosaurus to reach plants not accessible to other massive herbivores of the time. Brachiosaurus and other sauropods (giant, long-necked plant eating dinosaurs) possessed air-sacs throughout their bodies to make them lighter, enabling them to grow to massive sizes.

LOCATION: North America

DIET: Herbivore. Likely fed off the tops of cycads and ginkgoes, eating up to 300kg a day.

MODERN COMPARISON: Brachiosaurus is often compared to giraffes due to their similar body shapes.