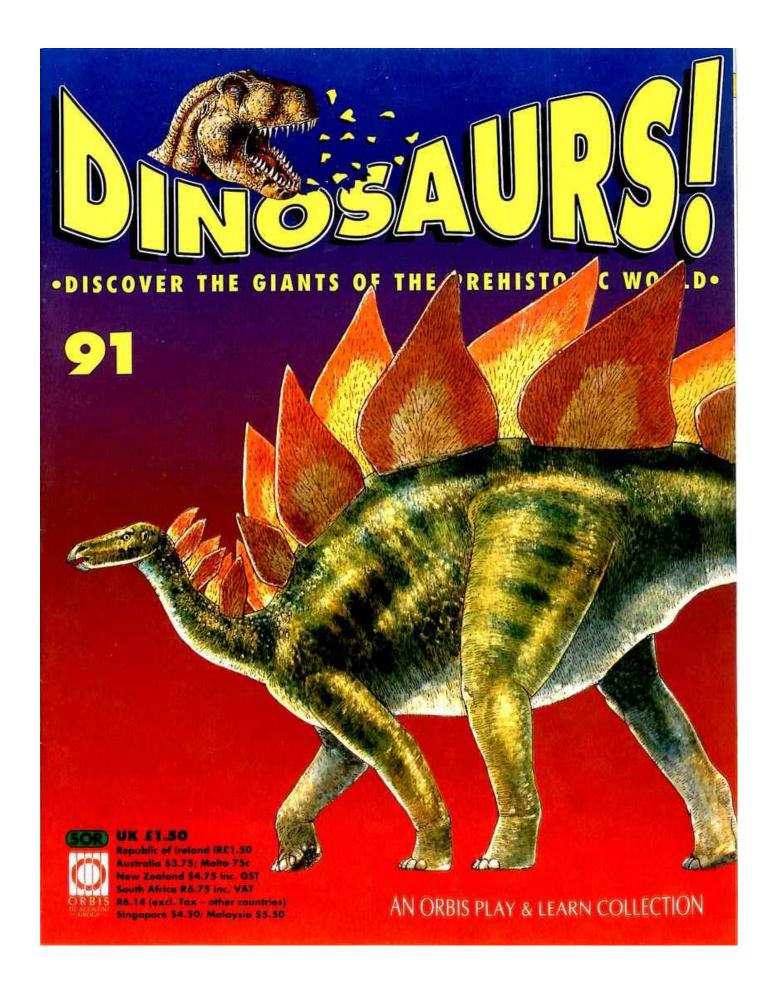
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Walk in Cretaceous western Europe in DINOSAUR SAFARI 2166



See a dinosaur from every angle! STEGOSAURUS 2174



Deciding what a dinosaur should be called is no easy matter. Find out how the experts do it in

THE NAME GAME



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Will Doedicurus' spiky tail club save it from two Borhyena?



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# DOEDICURUS

Tank-like Doedicurus grazed the grasslands of South America two million years ago.



oedicurus was a member of a strange-looking group of armoured reptiles called glyptodonts. The glyptodonts

evolved about 20 million years ago and died out less than a million years ago.

### **BIGGER AND BETTER**

The glyptodonts flourished in prehistoric South America. They were extremely successful plant-eaters. Some of the glyptodonts became very large. Doedicurus was one of the biggest. This mighty herbivore was built like an armoured tank. At about 4m long, it was as big as a modern estate car.

### **GENTLE GIANT**

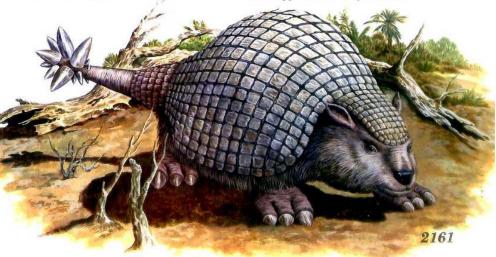
Doedicurus may have looked very frightening, but it was a peaceful planteater. This huge mammal, a relative of today's armadillo, used its powerful teeth to chew up tough grasses.

### ARMED GUARD

Doedicurus needed its heavy body armour to protect itself from sabre-toothed, catlike marsupials such as Thylacosmilus. Today's armadillos have hinged armour, but Doedicurus had a rigid, dome-shaped shell, covered in a sheath of horn.

### **CLUB CLASS**

Doedicurus' most powerful weapon was its spiked tail club. The huge plant-eater probably used it to knock down enemies. A single forceful blow from its tail could have toppled an unwary attacker.







IDENTIKIT

Doedicurus had huge, deep jaws operated by powerful muscles. These helped it chew up tough grasses. But this big mammal had no front teeth. Instead, it had teeth at the back to grind tough vegetation.

### **ALL-DAY BUFFET**

Like many herbivores today, *Doedicurus* probably spent most of the day eating. Otherwise it would not have been able to digest enough food to fuel its massive body.

### **LOOK-ALIKES**

Doedicurus was the mammal equivalent of an armoured dinosaur. It was about the same size as a small ankylosaur. The ankylosaurs roamed around the Earth more than 140 million years before the glyptodonts evolved. Ankylosaurs were plant-eaters like *Doedicurus*. Their body armour protected them from hungry tyrannosaurs. Many ankylosaurs had a club at the end of their tails similar to *Doedicurus*' club.

### MEMORABLE MEETING

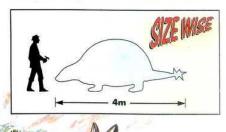
The last glyptodonts, such as *Doedicurus*, lived at the same time as the first humans, about two million years ago. The strange-looking animals made a great impression on early South American Indians.

### **TELLING STORIES**

There are ancient South American stories about mysterious giant mammals, which may have been glyptodonts. These stories have been passed down from generation to generation and are still told today.



Six-banded armadillos from modern Brazil are descendants of the glyptodonts. But their armour is hinged, not rigid like *Doedicurus'* armour.



## tail club from London's Natural History Museum.

A 1m-long Doedicurus

Manmade cudgels from medieval times were very similar in size and shape.

# IT'S A FACT

### **HEAVYWEIGHT**

The bulky body armour of *Doedicurus* must have weighed it down very heavily. The big plant-eater probably weighed over two tonnes and nearly a quarter of that was its armour.

# MONSTUR FACTS

- NAME: Doedicurus (<u>dee</u>-dick-<u>ure</u>-us) means 'armoured tail'
- GROUP: mammal
- SIZE: 4m longFOOD: plants
- LIVED: about 2 million years ago in the Pleistocene in South America





2165

# PANOPLOSAURUS

Sharp shoulder spikes made Panoplosaurus one of the most fearsome-looking of the armoured dinosaurs.

anoplosaurus was the lastmulti known nodosaur. The
nodosaurs were plant-eating
dinosaurs that survived for more than 120
million years. The earliest appeared in the
Middle Jurassic Period, 185 million years
ago. Panoplosaurus arrived just over 100
million years later and survived to the end
of the Age of the Dinosaurs.

### STUDS AND SPIKES

Panoplosaurus had a helmet of bony plates over its head, and bands of stud-covered plates over its barrel-shaped body and long tail. Spikes jutted from its shoulders.

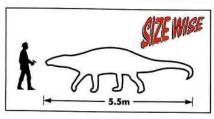
### LOW DOWN

2164

This nodosaur probably weighed about 3.5 tonnes. It roamed North America and had a sheep-like skull, so it may have eaten low-growing plants.

# MONSTER FACTS

- NAME: Panoplosaurus (pan-oh-pluhsaw-rus) means 'armoured lizard'
- GROUP: dinosaur
- SIZE: 5.5m long
  FOOD: plants
- LIVED: about 80 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous Period in North America



### **FULL CHARGE**

When attacked, some nodosaurs lay down and hid under their body armour. But Panoplosaurus may have fought. It could

have charged enemies and speared them with its shoulder spikes.

# SHONISAURUS

Speedy Shonisaurus is the largestknown ichthyosaur, or 'fish lizard'.



cthyosaurs were reptiles, but they looked and acted more like fish. They were some of the most successful hunters

in the Late Mesozoic seas.

### FISH STARTER

Shonisaurus grew up to 15m long and was one of the earliest fish lizards. An almost complete skeleton was found in Nevada, USA, in rock that was 220 million years old.

### TAIL POWER

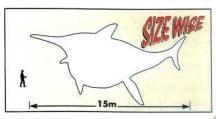
Advanced fish lizards had broad, short paddles (flippers). *Shonisaurus*, like all primitive fish lizards, had long, thin paddles. But it probably used its tail to move through water, as a shark does today.

## FRONT TEETH

Shonisaurus had very long jaws. But, unlike most other ichthyosaurs, Shonisaurus had teeth only at the front of its jaws.

# MONSTER FACTS

- NAME: Shonisaurus (show-nee-sore-us) means 'lizard from Shoni'
- GROUP: reptile
- SIZE:15m longFOOD: fish
- LIVED: about 220 million years ago in the Late Triassic Period in North America.



### PACK ATTACK

Shonisaurus was probably able to speed along at up to 40km/h. It may have hunted in packs, as today's dolphins do.





# PREHISTORIC WORLD

# **DINOSAUR SAFARI**

# **Early Cretaceous Western Europe**

Step back in time to Europe 130 million years ago and go white-water rafting through a strange, prehistoric land.

t is the Early Cretaceous and the part of the world that is western Europe today is a totally different place. Stretching from southern England across to Belgium and northern France is a region of upland. Geologists call this the London Platform. Your prehistoric raft trip starts here, on a swirling stream that gushes down a deep, steep-sided canyon.

### LOOK AROUND

The canyon opens out on to a broad plain, and the river slows. You can put down your paddles for a while and take a look

around. Limestone ridges, clothed in conifer trees, border the misty plain.

### WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

The river runs between the limestone ridges. You can see ammonite fossils buried in the rocks. They show you that the limestone was

laid down in the Jurassic Period, 20 million years before. Huge pterosaurs wheel and turn in the sky above your raft. Are they waiting for you to fall in and drown? No – fish-eating *Ornithodesmus* would not be able to eat human flesh.

During the safari, the river runs through small lakes. They probably looked like this one (left) in Kenya today.

## **FISHING DINOSAUR**

The main river changes direction as it meets a smaller river and passes through a gap in the ridge. Another fish-eater comes into view. It is a 10m-long theropod, with long, narrow jaws like a crocodile's.

## FOOD OR FOE?

countries today

map show the position of

It is *Baryonyx* waiting on the bank for fish to swim by. It hooks them out with its huge claw. As you pass it looks up, unsure if you are a threat or its next meal.

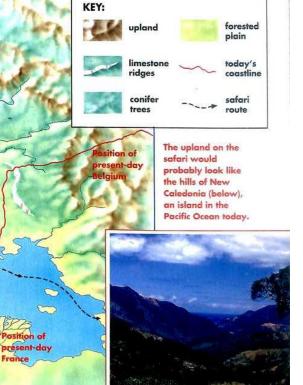
### **OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...**

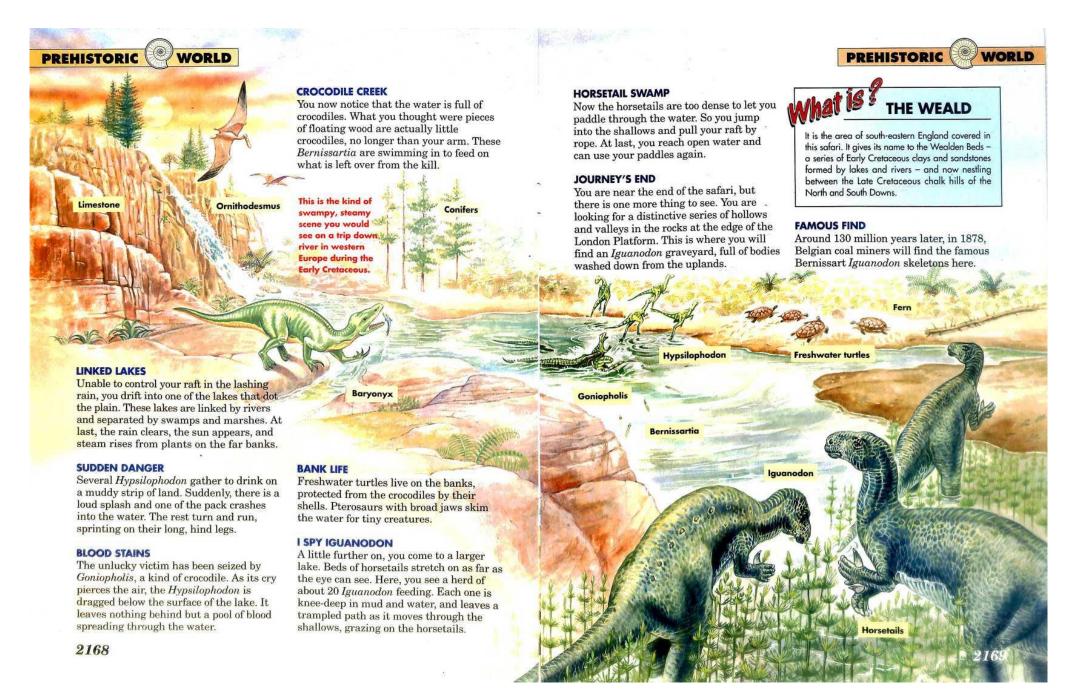
One crisis is over, but there will be other big meat-eaters about. Dinosaurs, such as Acrocanthosaurus and the fin-backed Becklespinax, roam the forests on the plain.

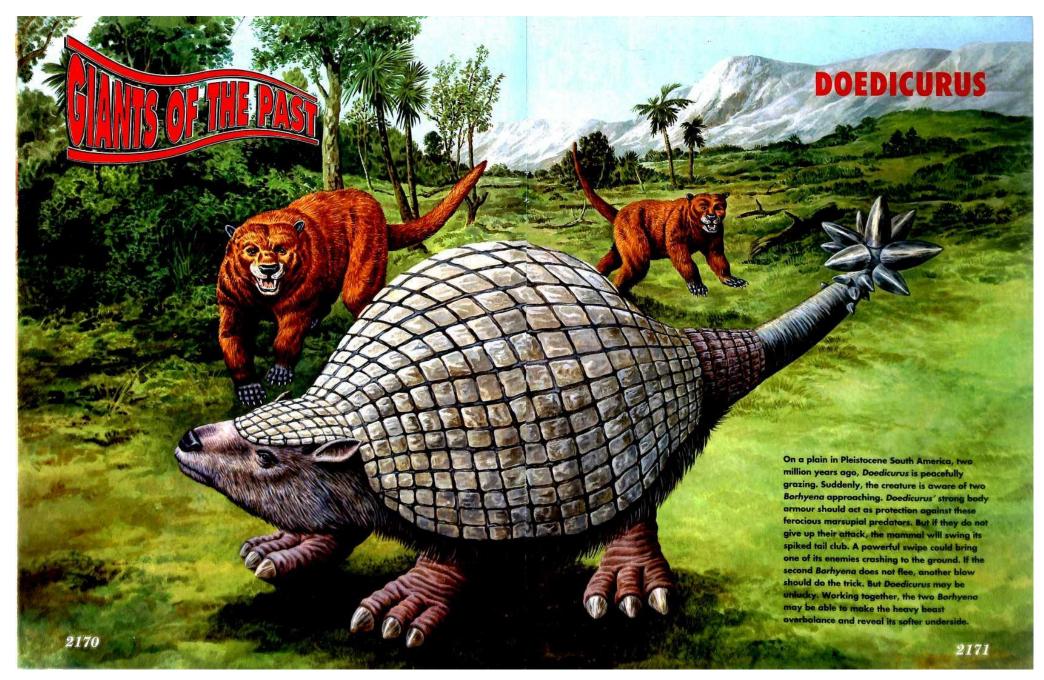
### RAFTING IN THE RAIN

Soon the limestone disappears and the river becomes wide and slow. Conifers, cycad-like trees and ferns crowd the banks. The soil, washed down from the London Platform, is deep and fertile. Big raindrops patter into the water from the dark clouds gathering overhead. Soon you are caught in a sub-tropical rainstorm. The rain is so heavy the river banks completely disappear from view.

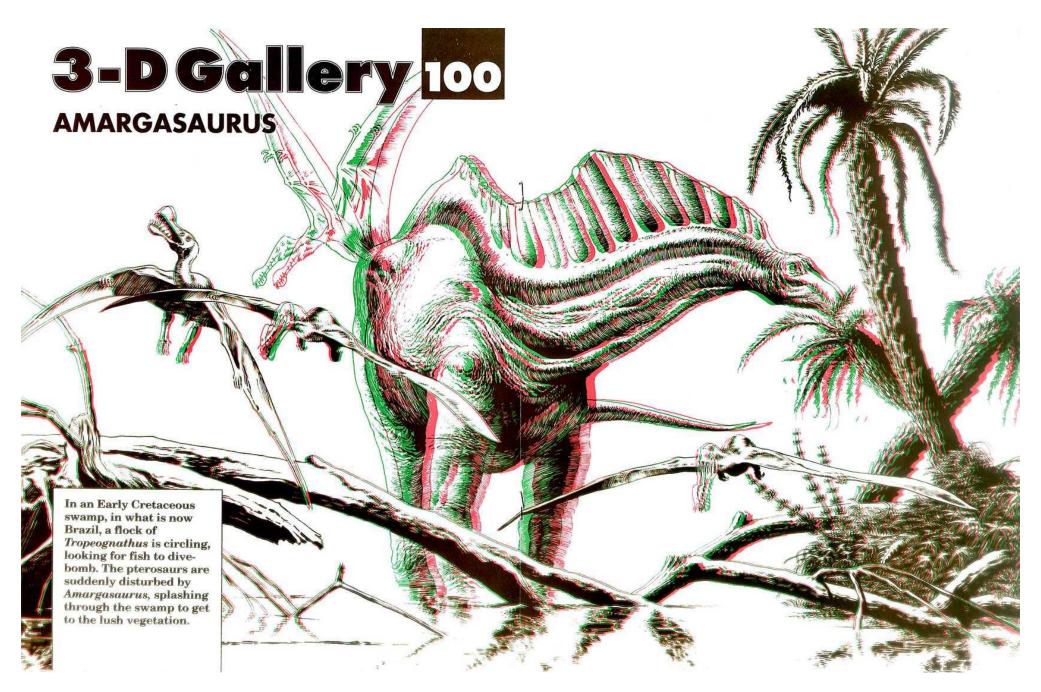


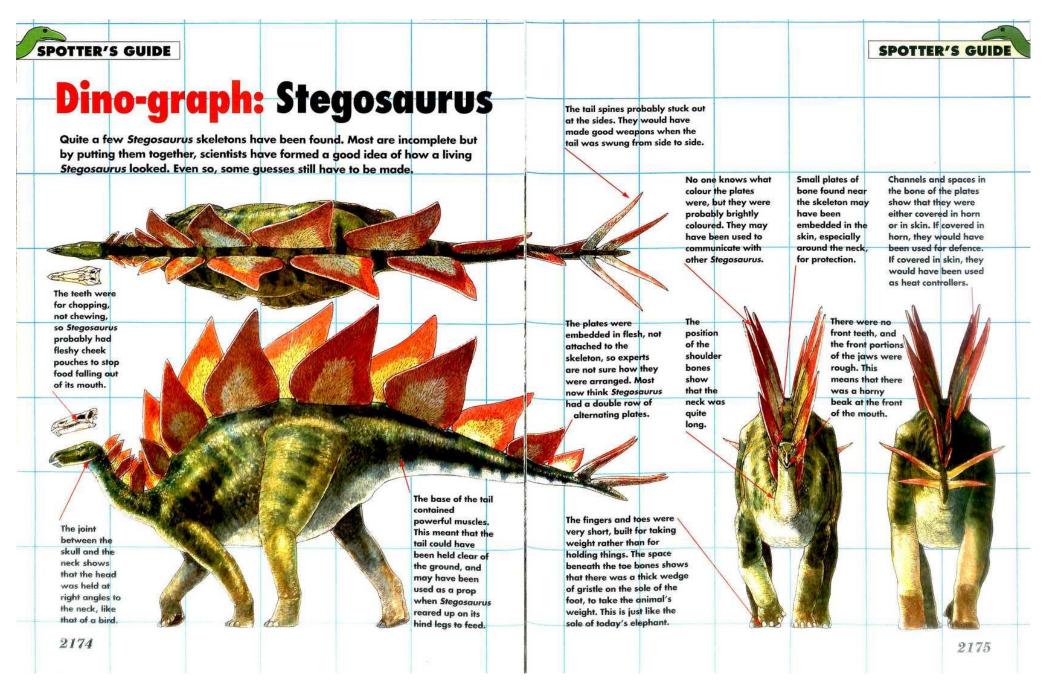






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# The name How WE TELL A SPECIES Individuals of different species cannot breed

How do the experts decide what a dinosaur should be called?

hen we call a dinosaur by a name – *Triceratops*, for example - we are putting it into a group of animals called a genus (jen-us). Animals in the same genus share lots of characteristics. The genus can be split into smaller groups called species (spee-sheez). Animals in the same species are even more like each other than animals from the same genus.

2176

All today's cats belong to the same genus, which is given the name Felis. The domestic cat is a particular species of cat, called Felis catus. The lynx is another, called Felis lynx. So when scientists talk about a particular species they give it two names - a genus name and a species name.

with one another - that is what defines a species. A domestic cat, for example, cannot breed with a lynx. They are different species even though they belong to the same genus. Fossil records cannot tell us which dinosaurs could breed with one another, so experts have to look for other clues.

The best known of the horned dinosaurs is probably Triceratops. Dozens of specimens have been discovered, and it is often the skull that has been preserved as a fossil. This is because Triceratop's skull was a solid mass of bone.

Scientists have noticed many differences between the Triceratops' skulls. They all have three horns and a solid frill, but in some skulls the horns above the eyes point straight upwards, while in others they point forwards. The size and shape of the horns and snouts also varies. Scientists concluded that they were looking at more than one species of Triceratops. Sixteen types of Triceratops have been found, and each has its own species name. The biggest is Triceratops horridus and the smallest is Triceratops prorsus.

Here are nine of the 16 Tricerators species that have been named. Some experts think they are not separate species, but variations It is possible that all the different of one species - Triceratops horridus. Triceratops' head shapes are only

variations within the same species. Think

though all domestic cats are members of

now think that there was only one species

the same species. In fact, many experts

about today's domestic cat. It comes in

many shapes, sizes and colours, even

- 1 Triceratops prorsus
- 2 Triceratops serratus
- 3 Triceratops elatus
- 4 Triceratops flabellatus
- 5 Triceratops obtusus
- 6 Triceratops eurycephalus
- 7 Triceratops calicornis
- 8 Triceratops horridus
- 9 Triceratops albertensis

of Triceratops - Triceratops horridus. Triceratops with different skull shapes have been given different species names. But some experts now think there is only one species. Triceratops horridus Triceratops prorsus

### A DIFFERENT SLANT

Both genus and species names are written in italics. The genus name has a capital letter, but the species name does not.



Tyrannosaurus rex was one species of the genus Tyrannosaurus. Some experts think that there were others.

Some experts think Tarbosaurus bataai is another species of Tyrannosaurus -Tyrannosaurus bataar.

Daspletosaurus torosus is very similar to Trex. It may be a species of Tyrannosaurus -Tyrannosaurus torosus.

### DINO DILEMMA

The word 'dinosaur' is not a scientific name. Originally, the name 'Dinosauria' was thought up to cover the new reptile-like remains that were beginning to be found in the 1800s - particularly Iguanodon and Megalosaurus. Since then, scientists have found that the group of animals we call the dinosaurs is too diverse to be covered by just one scientific term.

2178

### DINOSAUR DOUBLE

Where do you most often see this double name - genus name and species name - applied to a dinosaur? In Tyrannosaurus rex' name of course! Tyrannosaurus rex was one species of Tyrannosaurus, but were there any other species? Some experts think so.

### MANY TYRANTS

Tyrannosaurus rex (1) was the largest of a big group of ferocious meat-eating dinosaurs called the tyrannosaurs. This dinosaur family also included massive Tarbosaurus bataar (2), snaggle-toothed Daspletosaurus torosus (3), longsnouted Albertosaurus libratus (4), tiny Nanotyrannus lancensis (5). and Alectrosaurus olseni (6), among others.

### MORE CLOSELY RELATED

Some palaeontologists think the differences between these animals are not great enough to give them different genus names (Daspletosaurus, Nanotyrannus, and so on). They think some of them are just species of Tyrannosaurus and others are species of Albertosaurus.

If this is the case, they should have new names to show which genus they belong to. Dinosaurs (2) and (3) should be Tyrannosaurus bataar and Tyrannosaurus torosus, and dinosaurs (5) and (6) should be called Albertosaurus lancensis and Albertosaurus olseni.

### ALWAYS CHANGING

The way that dinosaurs are classified is always under review. Studies reveal new similarities or new differences between dinosaurs and the names keep changing.

# LUMPERS OR SPLITTERS

Dinosaur systematists - scientists who classify dinosaurs and give them their names - come in two types. Some are thought of as 'lumpers', while others are thought of as 'splitters'.

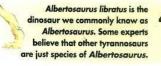
### ALL TOGETHER

Lumpers tend to 'lump' many different species or genera (the word for more than one genus) into a single species or genus. The scientists who think that all the Triceratops belong to one species are lumpers. So are those that think the tyrannosaur family should be divided up into only a few genera.

The splitters, on the other hand, think that there were lots of different species within a genus. If many specimens of a particular dinosaur are found, these scientists will 'split' them into many different species. If a new specimen is found, it is usually given a new species name - if not a new genus name.

The problem is that experts only have bones to go on. If we could see dinosaurs in the flesh, we would probably recognise the animals of the same species straight away, and see the differences that put them into different genera. If we knew which animal bred with which, that would really settle the matter! But that is something we are never likely to know.

Alectrosaurus olseni may also be a species of Albertosaurus known as Albertosaurus olseni.



Nanotyrannus lancensis

Albertosaurus lancensis.

may be a species of

Albertosaurus -

is another tyrannosaur. It

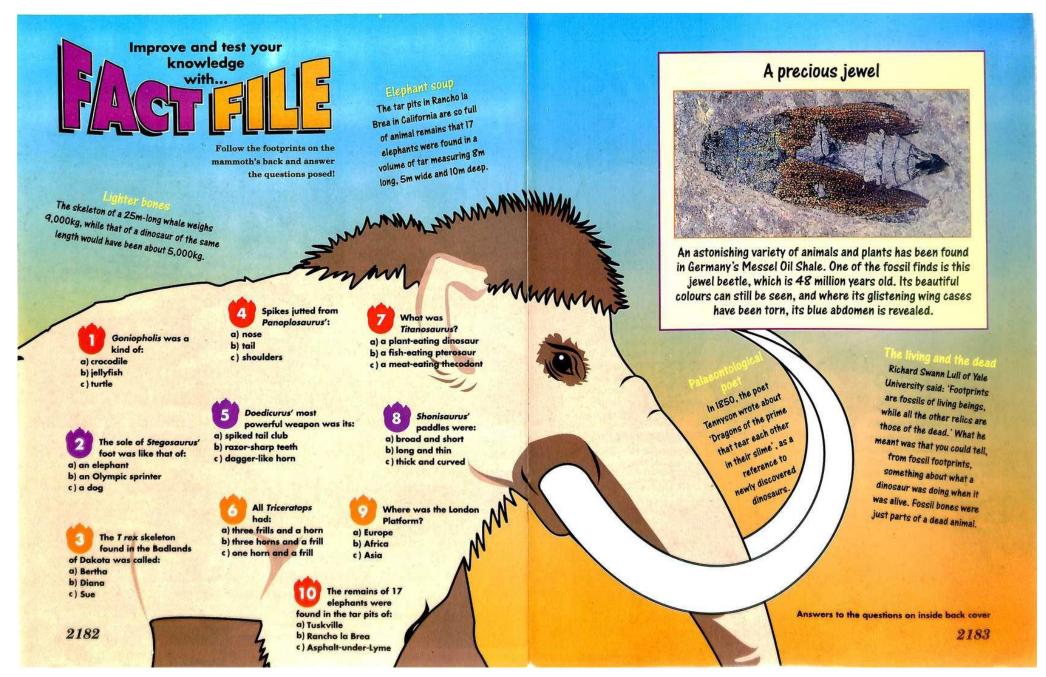


The lynx and the domestic cat belong to the same genus, Felis, but they are different species -Felis lynx and Felis catus.





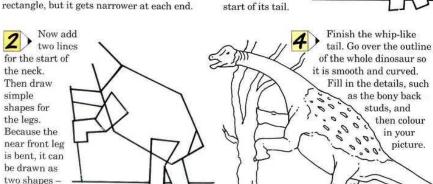


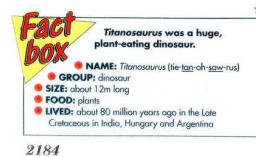


# TITANOSAURUS

Start by doing a pencil drawing of *Titanosaurus*, using just straight lines and very simple shapes. Draw the main part of its body first in the middle of your paper, leaving plenty of room for the long neck and tail. The body is a bit like a rectangle, but it gets narrower at each end.

Continue the lines for the long neck, drawing the new parts at a slightly different angle so that the neck bends. Next, draw Titanosaurus' small head and the start of its tail





an 'L-shape

and a rectangle joined together.

picture.

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