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Biomolecules preserved in their bones challenge the idea that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. When the minerals are removed, the protein component of dinosaur bones sometimes remains. Because proteins break down after an organism's death, their presence is best explained by relatively recent death and burial, rather than by tens of millions of years.

5



We don't know most dinosaurs' color, or the sounds they made. We have little idea whether dinosaurs were purple, green, grey or orange. There are some tantalizing clues, but the majority of dinosaur reconstructions rely on reasonable inferences, not direct evidence. Did dinosaurs hiss like snakes or roar like lions? Did they chirp like geckos? The fossils are silent; so, at least for the moment, dinosaur sounds are mostly left up to our informed imagination.

6

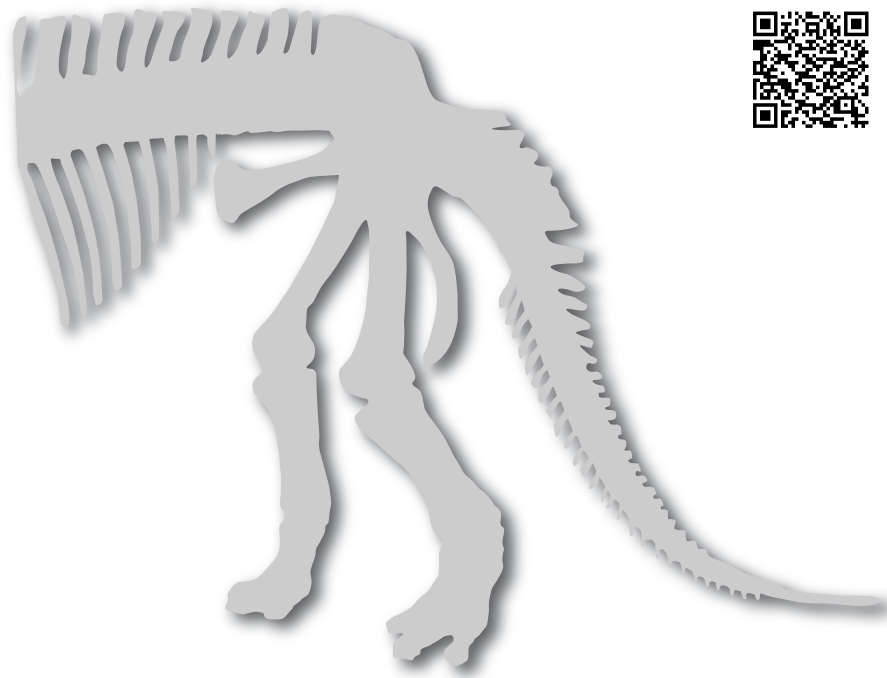


Tracks tell us about dinosaur motion and behavior. The distance and relative locations of dinosaur tracks, combined with anatomical information, reveal how dinosaurs moved. Most tracks were left by dinosaurs that were walking rather than running. Many of these tracks formed as dinosaurs walked across barren flatlands, often flooded by nearby bodies of water.

Want to learn more? The Geoscience Research Institute has information about dinosaurs and other fossils at: grisda.org. A small dinosaur fossil, huge dinosaur footprint, dinosaur eggs and other fantastic specimens are displayed at the GRI building in Loma Linda. Visitors are welcome.

Excellent dinosaur resources, including videos, are available from Southern Adventist University: www.southern.edu/origins.

"On the Trail of Dinosaurs," a very informative video on dinosaur trackways produced by GRI, can be watched scanning this QR code:

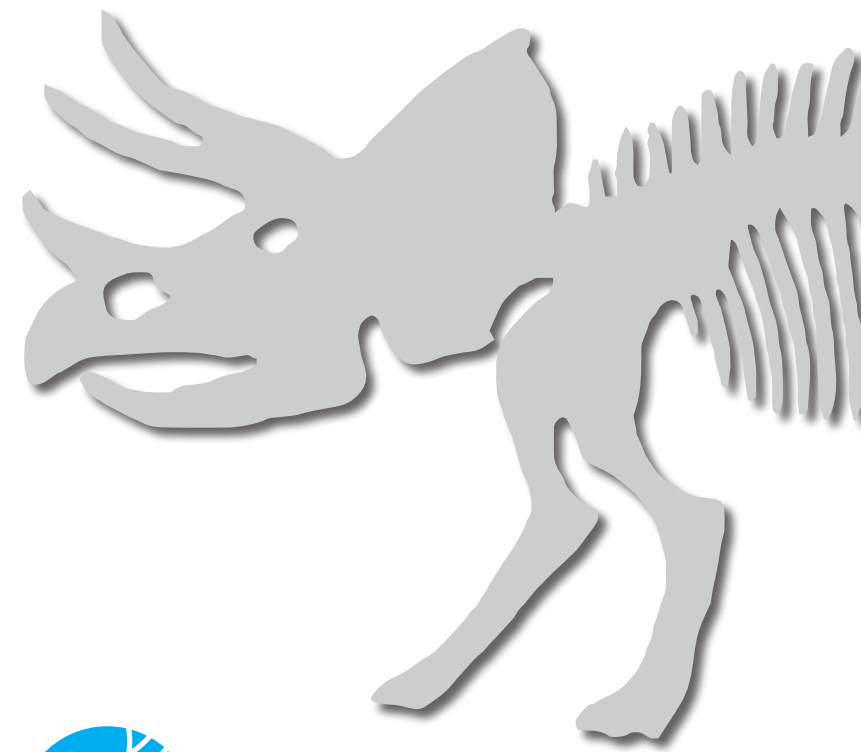


Want to participating in a Dino Dig? Visit dinosaurproject.swau.edu to find out more, or visit the amazing dinosaur museum on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University.

"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."
Genesis 1:25

GRISDA.ORG

10 DINOSAUR Facts Every Christian Student Should Know



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Gigantic, vicious, feather-covered animals called dinosaurs were killed by a massive asteroid impact 65 million years ago... at least that is what many people believe. But what do the facts really tell us about dinosaurs?



1

Dinosaurs were typically the size of animals living today. Huge things are exciting, and the largest dinosaurs were enormous, but most were not extraordinarily big; the smallest was lighter than a Chihuahua and most weighed less than a cow.



2

Many dinosaurs were vegetarians. Dinosaur teeth and other structures commonly indicate a vegetarian diet. In addition, fossilized dino droppings—called coprolites—reveal that plant-eating dinosaurs ranged from towering titanosaurs to tiny 1.4 kg *Aquilaps*.



3

Some dinosaurs had alligator-like skin. Sometimes, impressions of dinosaur skin were left in mud and preserved as fossils. These impressions show that at least some dinosaurs had hard scaly skin, but not the kind of overlapping scales found on snakes or lizards.



Dinosaur skin impression



Edmontosaurus teeth designed for eating plants



7

Some dinosaurs may have had feathers. “Feathered dinosaurs” appear in rock layers above those containing the lowest bird fossils. Some suggest these were secondarily flightless birds, others claim that birds are dinosaurs. Christians do not need birds to have evolved from dinosaurs, so are free to consider feathered dinosaurs as a variation of animal kinds originally created by God.



8

The Bible may mention dinosaurs. Here we must be very careful. The word dinosaur—Greek for “terrible lizard”—wasn’t coined until the 19th century, so we can’t be certain that what we call dinosaurs correspond to Hebrew words used by Moses, or anyone else, thousands of years ago. With that caution in mind, Job 40:15-24 describes the “behemoth,” a creature that sounds like a vegetarian dinosaur created by God. Still, there are alternative interpretations, so we can’t claim the behemoth of Job is certainly a dinosaur.



9

Dinosaur and human fossils have not been found together. So far, claimed examples of human and dinosaur fossils occurring together have been either forgeries or misinterpretations. For example, genuine dinosaur tracks are found in the Paluxy River bed southwest of Dallas, Texas, but no genuine human tracks are there. Peruvian “Ica stones” that depict dinosaurs are another forgery. These were produced recently by local people.



10

Some dinosaurs are not found together with fossils of their food. Grass-containing dinosaur coprolites from India show that some dinosaurs ate grass. However, other than coprolites, grasses appear only in rocks above dinosaur-containing layers. The fossil record is ordered, but the order doesn’t necessarily indicate when organisms lived. If it did, dinosaurs and their food should appear together.



Dinosaur footprints near Denver, CO