

# Knowledge Organiser EYFS: What if the dinosaurs came back?

## History: Prehistoric

Dinosaurs were a large group of **reptiles** that appeared around **251 million** years ago, at the start of the **Triassic period** of prehistory. They are now **extinct**.

## Science: Fossils

Fossils are preserved remains, impressions or traces of once living things. Many prehistoric remains have been discovered all over the world, including dinosaur remains.

## Science: Diet

### Meat eaters – Carnivores

Some dinosaurs only ate meat and were called carnivores. Carnivores usually had long strong legs so they could run fast after their prey. They also had big strong jaws, sharp teeth and deadly claws.

## Science: Diet

### Plant eater – Herbivores

Most dinosaurs ate plants and were called herbivores. Herbivores had blunt teeth good for stripping vegetation. Some had long necks so they could reach the leaves on tall trees, others were small and ate bushes and shrubs. They had rounded feet.

## Fossilisation

An animal dies. It gets covered with **sediments** which eventually become rock.



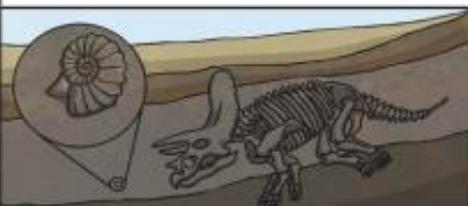
More layers of rock cover it. Only hard parts of the creature remain, e.g. bones, shells and teeth.



Over thousands of years, **sediment** might enter the mould to make a **cast fossil**. Bones may change to mineral but will stay the same shape.



Changes in sea level take place over a long period.



As **erosion** and weathering take place, eventually the fossil becomes exposed.



Key Events	
<b>Fossil discovery</b>	In 1836, Mary Anning found prehistoric remains on the Jurassic coast. She called them 'curiosities'.
<b>Triassic period</b>	200-250 million years ago the first dinosaurs appeared. Hot dry climate mainly covered in large deserts.
<b>Jurassic period</b>	200-145 million years ago. Many other animals extinct – dinosaurs survive. Fall in temperature and rainfall rises - Good conditions for plants to grow.
<b>Cretaceous period</b>	Land separated. More plants and animals.

Vocabulary	
<b>Dinosaur</b>	'a terrible lizard'
<b>Paleontologist</b>	A scientist who studies fossils.
<b>Extinct</b>	When a particular animal or species is no longer alive anywhere in the world and the species has died out.
<b>Fossil</b>	The remains of a prehistoric animal or plant.
<b>Diet</b>	What an animal eats or drinks.
<b>Habitat</b>	Where an animals lives.
<b>Predator</b>	An animal that hunts others.
<b>Marine</b>	Something related to or found in the sea.

## Subject: History

### People: Mary Anning

A scientist who studies fossils is called a Palaeontologist.

Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter and collector. She found and identified many prehistoric fossils from the time of the dinosaurs and sold them to make money for her family. Anning was one of the earliest fossil hunters to identify pre-historic fossils.

### Feeling Curious?

#### Links to more knowledge

[Lyme Regis Museum- Mary Anning](#)

[CBBC- Mary Anning Fossil Hunter](#)

[Nick Cope- Dinosaurs](#)

[Andy's Dinosaur Adventures](#)

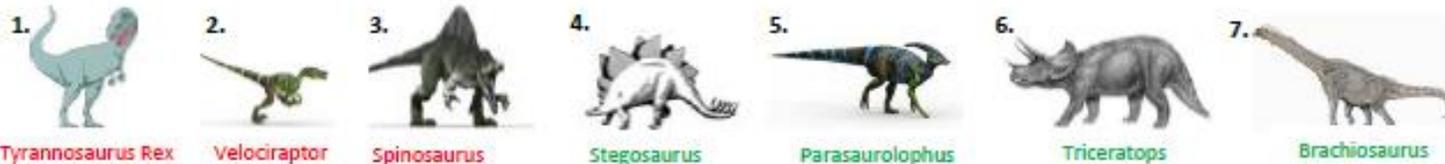
[Natural History Museum](#)

#### Books

The Usbourne Big Book of Dinosaurs by Alex Frith.  
Stone Girl Bone Girl by Laurence Anholt.

Complete Book of Dinosaurs by Dougal Dixon

#### Selected examples of dinosaurs



Tyrannosaurus Rex

Velociraptor

Spinosaurus

Stegosaurus

Parasaurolophus

Triceratops

Brachiosaurus