



Is Dippy real?



No, Dippy is a **replica** cast made of plaster-of-Paris and resin painted black to look like the **fossilised bones** Dippy was modelled from.

Why is Dippy important if he isn't real?

Replicas are important for **scientific research** as they provide exact models of original bones for **comparisons** with other skeletons.



Has Dippy always looked the same?



Dippy's **pose** has changed over time due to discoveries about dinosaur **biology** and **evolution**. In 1993 his tail was raised from the ground and in the 1960s his head was moved up as if he was eating from a tree.

How do you say *Diplodocus*?



People pronounce *Diplodocus* in different ways, but scientists tend to say '**DIP-low DOCK-us**'.



What does '*Diplodocus*' mean?

Diplodocus comes from the **ancient Greek** words *diplos* and *dokos*, meaning '**double beam**.' This is a reference to the **shape** of the **bones** in a *Diplodocus*' **tail**.





What family of dinosaurs does Dippy belong to?

Dippy belongs to a group of dinosaurs called **sauropods**, meaning '**lizard feet**'. They are four-legged herbivores with long necks and tails. Sauropods include the **largest** land animals ever to have lived.

How many bones does Dippy have?

Dippy has **292** bones (counting his skull and lower jaw as one). In comparison, an **adult** human skeleton has **206** bones.



How old is Dippy?

Dippy is **116** years old and was created between 1903 and 1904. However, the *Diplodocus* species Dippy is cast from lived in the Late Jurassic period, **155–145 million** years ago.



What other dinosaurs lived at the same time as *Diplodocus*?

Stegosaurus and ***Allosaurus*** lived in the **Late Jurassic** period. *Tyrannosaurus* and *Triceratops* lived much later, in the Late Cretaceous period (100–66 million years ago).





How many Dippys are there in the world?

Dippy is **one of 10** replicas of the original *Diplodocus carnegii* in museums around the world, including Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Vienna and Moscow.



What did Dippy eat?

Dippy was a **herbivore** and ate **soft leaves** from ferns and conifers. *Diplodocus* had many small, forward-pointing, **peg-like teeth** that were used to strip leaves from trees.



Where were the fossils found from which Dippy was copied?

All *Diplodocus* skeletons have been found in **western USA** – in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Utah.



How long was Dippy and how much did he weigh?

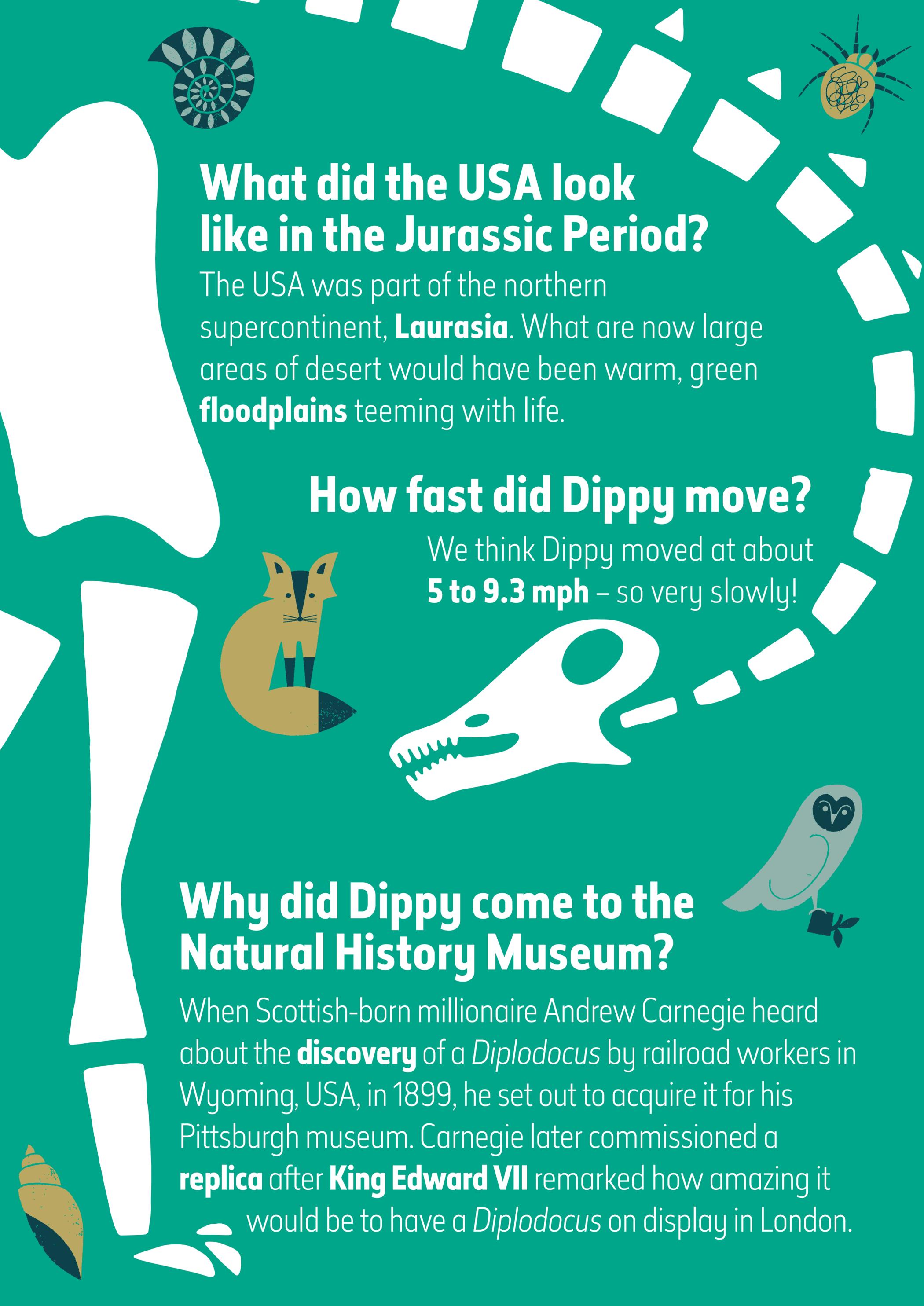
Dippy was about **26 metres long** and we think he weighed **11,000 to 15,000kg** (11 to 15 tonnes).





What are Dippy's closest living relatives?

Birds are Dippy's closest living relatives. Modern birds are living members of the **theropod** group, and sauropods and theropods are different but related types of dinosaur.



What did the USA look like in the Jurassic Period?

The USA was part of the northern supercontinent, **Laurasia**. What are now large areas of desert would have been warm, green **floodplains** teeming with life.

How fast did Dippy move?

We think Dippy moved at about **5 to 9.3 mph** – so very slowly!

Why did Dippy come to the Natural History Museum?

When Scottish-born millionaire Andrew Carnegie heard about the **discovery** of a *Diplodocus* by railroad workers in Wyoming, USA, in 1899, he set out to acquire it for his Pittsburgh museum. Carnegie later commissioned a **replica** after **King Edward VII** remarked how amazing it would be to have a *Diplodocus* on display in London.