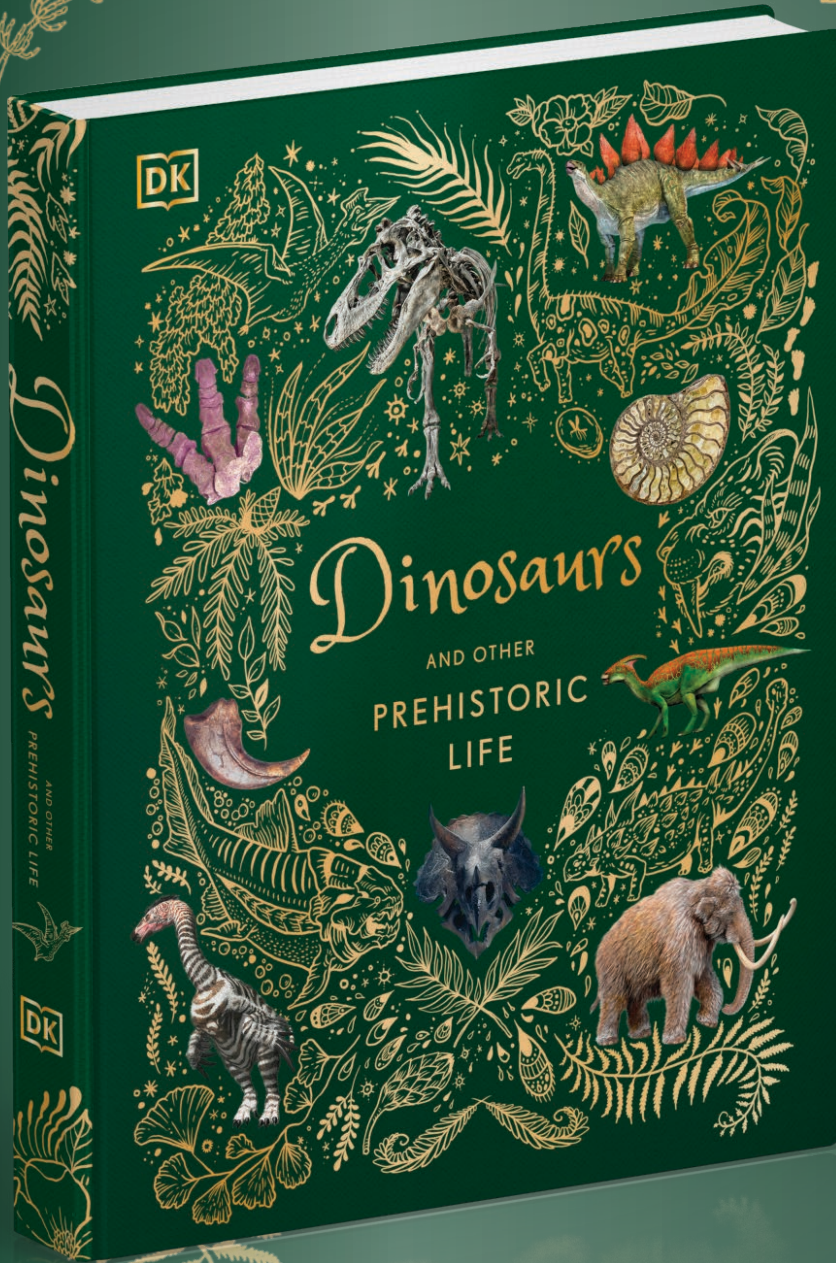


EXTRACT
& ACTIVITIES

Dinosaurs

AND OTHER
PREHISTORIC
LIFE

DINOSAUR EXPLORER PACK



Seymouria's jaws were filled with pointed teeth – it even had teeth in the roof of its mouth.

Seymouria



Just by looking at its skeleton, you may wonder what kind of animal Seymouria (see-mor-ee-a) was. It had a wide, triangular-shaped skull, which is typical of an amphibian, but also strong legs that could have held its body high off the ground, more like a reptile. In fact, 290-million-year-old Seymouria is thought to be a link between amphibians and early reptiles. It probably lived mainly on land, hunting for invertebrates and plants. However, fossils of close relatives of Seymouria suggest that its young may have had gills. This means that, like a frog, Seymouria underwent metamorphosis as it grew – transforming from a water-living larva to a land-living adult.

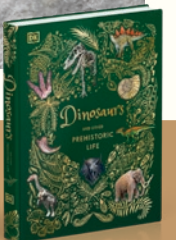
Seymouria. Permian Period, Europe and North America. Seymouria's strong legs and ribs suggest that it walked on land.



Would you like teeth on the roof of your mouth like the Seymouria?

Suitable for 7-9 years

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Liopleurodon

Liopleurodon (lai-oh-plyoo-roh-don) was a type of marine reptile known as a pliosaur, which thrived in the Jurassic Period. At 7 m (23 ft) long, it looked like a super-sized crocodile with flippers. Liopleurodon was a top ocean predator. It was armed with vicious, spiky teeth that stuck out of its mouth and it had flat, paddle-like limbs, which helped it power through the water. Its top snacks were probably smaller reptiles, squid, fish, or just about anything it wished! Unusually for a reptile, Liopleurodon gave birth to live young rather than laying eggs — it would have struggled to clamber onto land to build a nest.



Liopleurodon.
Jurassic Period, Europe.
Liopleurodon had incredibly
long jaws, and four flippers to
help it swim quickly.

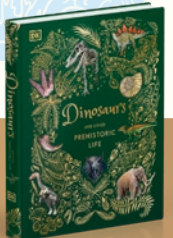
A person's head is about one-eighth of their height, but Liopleurodon's head was about one-fifth of its total length.



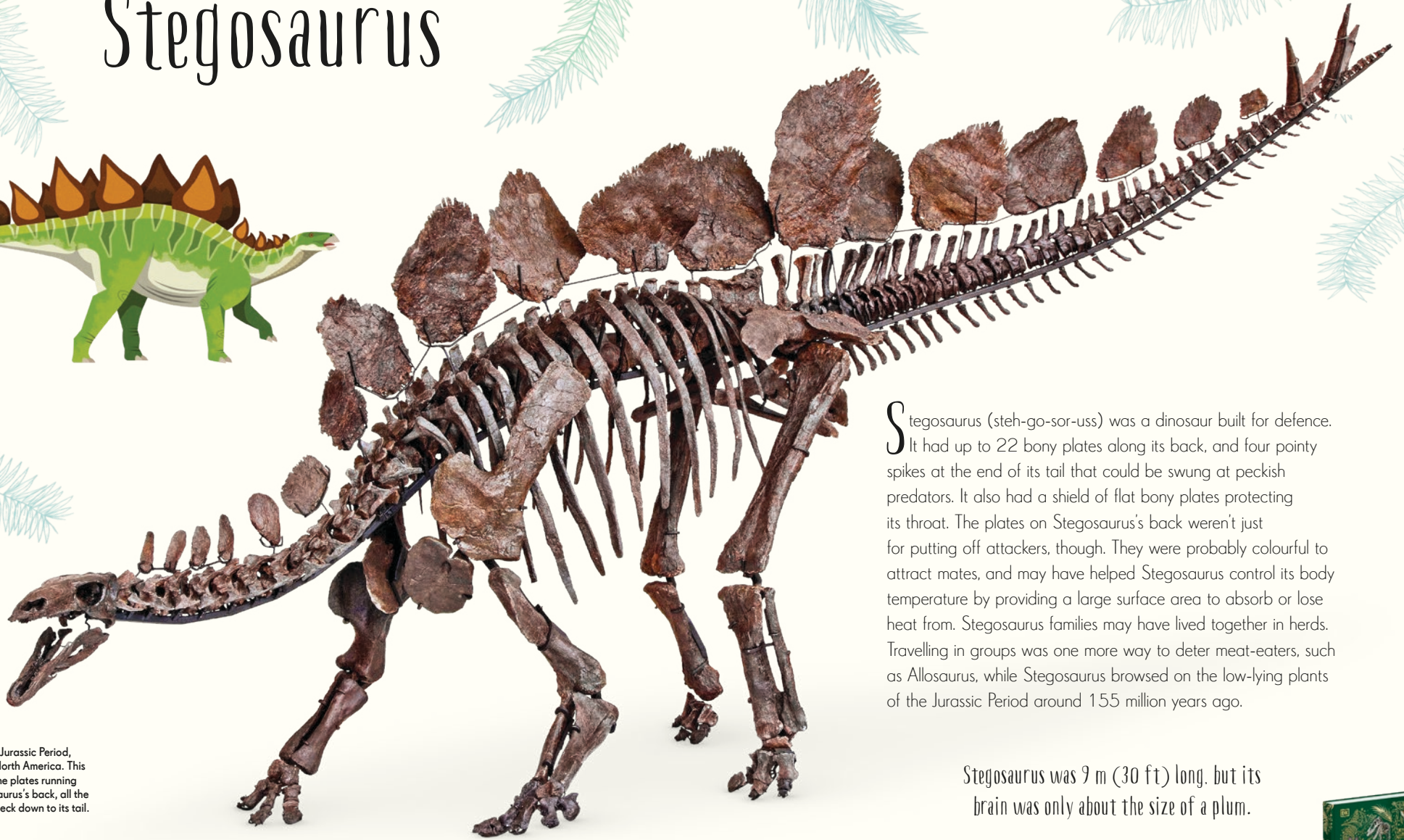
Could you swim as well as a Liopleurodon?

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Stegosaurus



Stegosaurus. Jurassic Period, Europe and North America. This fossil shows the plates running down Stegosaurus's back, all the way from its neck down to its tail.

Stegosaurus (steh-go-sor-uss) was a dinosaur built for defence. It had up to 22 bony plates along its back, and four pointy spikes at the end of its tail that could be swung at peckish predators. It also had a shield of flat bony plates protecting its throat. The plates on Stegosaurus's back weren't just for putting off attackers, though. They were probably colourful to attract mates, and may have helped Stegosaurus control its body temperature by providing a large surface area to absorb or lose heat from. Stegosaurus families may have lived together in herds. Travelling in groups was one more way to deter meat-eaters, such as Allosaurus, while Stegosaurus browsed on the low-lying plants of the Jurassic Period around 155 million years ago.

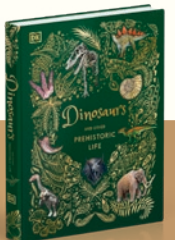
Stegosaurus was 9 m (30 ft) long, but its brain was only about the size of a plum.



Would you like a Stegosaurus as a pet?

Suitable for 7-9 years

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Create Your Own Dinosaur!

After reading the previous pages, have a go at creating your very own dinosaur! When you're ready, start drawing your prehistoric creature in the space on this page! If you are stuck for ideas, have a read below about different dinosaurs and prehistoric life.



Diplodocus: A huge dinosaur! At 26m (85ft) long, the Diplodocus was one of the longest animals to ever live!



Parasaurolophus: The long crest on the back of its head is actually made from nose bones



Ammonites: These small creatures lived inside tough shells that could grow to be as much as 2m (7ft) across!

Smilodon: Unlike modern big cats, male and female sabre-toothed cats were about the same size.



Suitable for 7-9 years

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