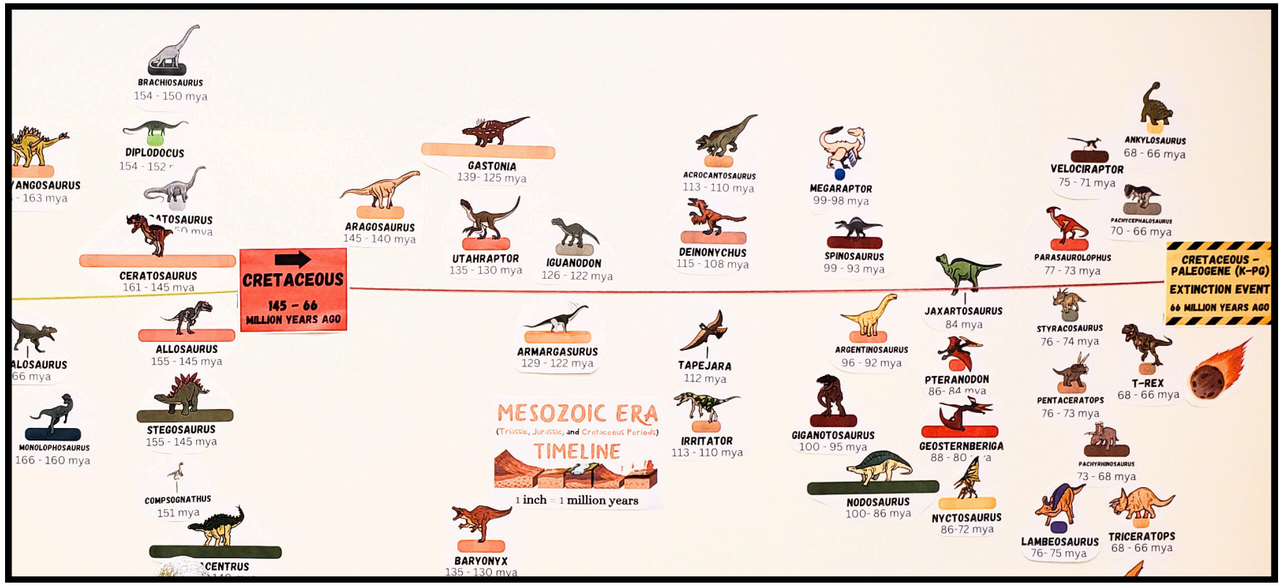
PRINTABLE MESOZOIC ERA TIMELINE

(Directions)

This PDF can be printed (11x17"), cut out, and taped to a wall or row of tables pushed together. It will create a timeline display of the **Mesozoic Era**, which was the “Age of the Dinosaurs.”

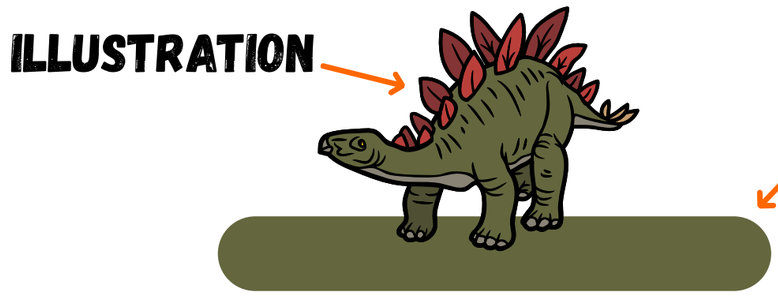
The Mesozoic Era consisted of three periods:
(1) **Triassic** (252 - 201 million years ago)
(2) **Jurassic** (201 - 143 million years ago)
(3) **Cretaceous** (143 - 66 million years ago)

When printed, this timeline should be mounted such that each **inch** = **one million years**. Thus, in total, this timeline model will be 186 inches (15.5ft) long. If sufficient wall space is not available at your library, consider pushing three typical ‘meeting room’ tables together OR using just a singular period (the Cretaceous features many “fan favorite” dinosaurs).



A portion of the timeline (Cretaceous Period) on the Maker Studio wall at ELPL.

Example (not to scale)



East Lansing Public Library

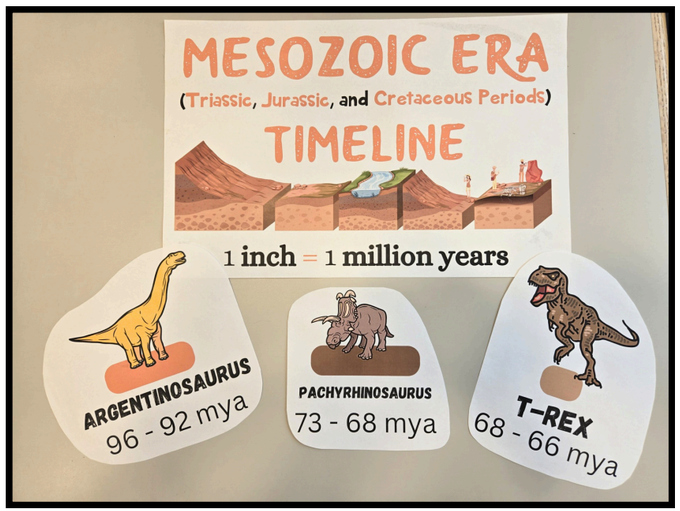
PRINTABLE MESOZOIC ERA TIMELINE

(Directions cont.)

Print this PDF out on 11x17" (ledger) paper. This will print the signage (e.g. **Mesozoic Era**) and the dinosaurs at scale. Most pages contain two dinosaurs, and each dinosaur should be cut out (see example to the right).

When mounting the timeline, consider using three different colors of yarn to represent the three periods (51 inches for Triassic, 58 inches for Jurassic, and 77 inches for Cretaceous). Then mount the period signs near their respective yarn.

The timeline can be constructed as either a **display** or as a **collaborative activity**. Consider having patrons pick dinosaurs and help measure along the timeline (tape measures work best) to find the right spot for their chosen dino. Integrate as much STEM interaction into this activity as you like.



An example of some dinosaurs cut out and ready.

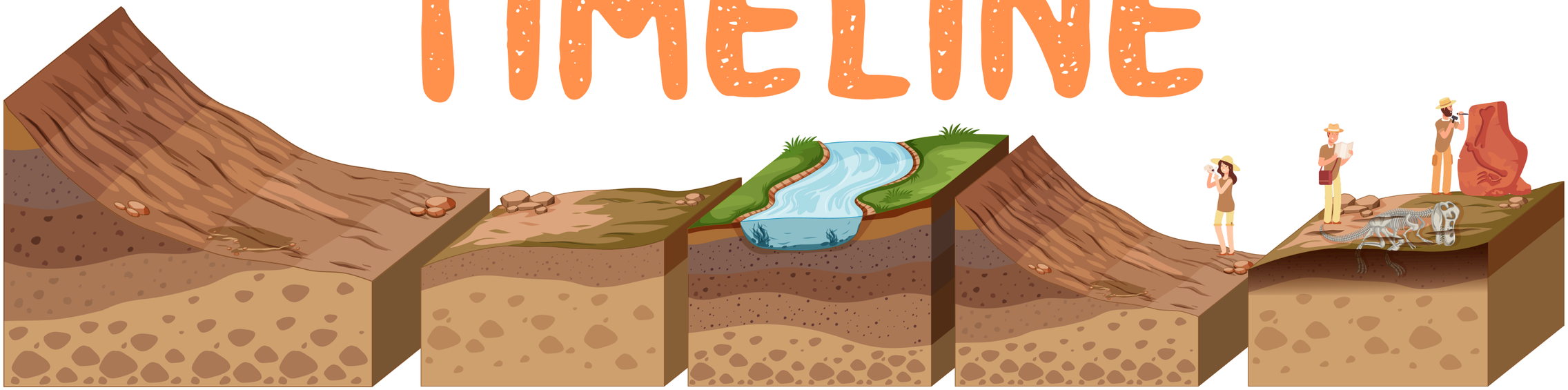
Note that neither these timeline components nor your constructed timeline will be perfectly accurate or perfectly to scale, but as a rough model it gives us a very interesting visual appreciation for the vastness and complexity of the “Age of the Dinosaurs,” all ~186 million years of it!

Your patrons will likely find lots of interesting takeaways. Note that T-Rex lived closer to us than to Stegosaurus! Most kinds of dinosaurs never interacted with one another, so unlike certain animated classics might have led us to believe, “triceratops never played with stegosaurus.”

MESOZOIC ERA

(Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods)

TIMELINE



1 inch = 1 million years

TRIASSIC PERIOD

252 - 201 mya

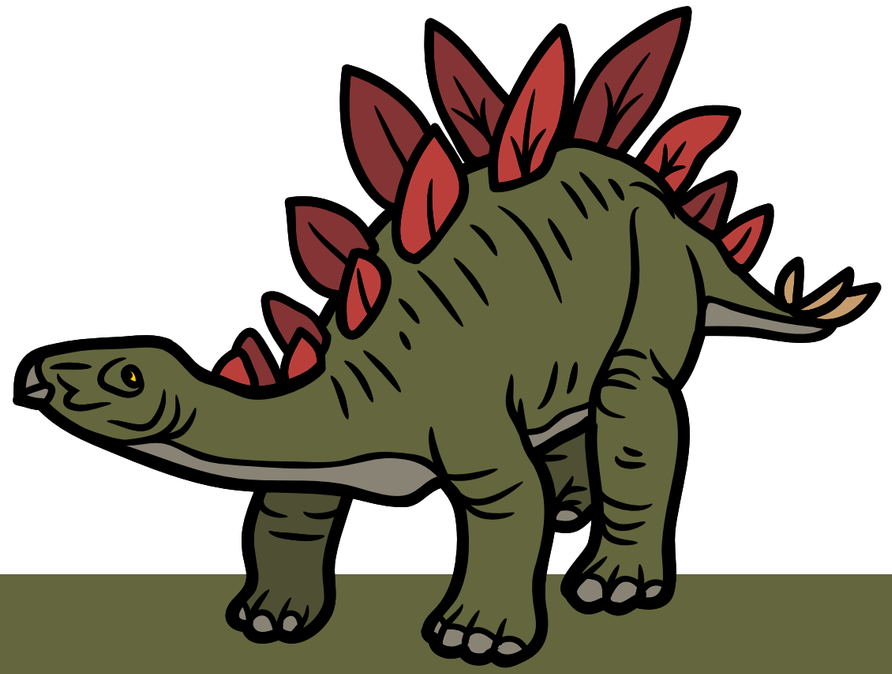
JURASSIC PERIOD

201 - 143 mya

CRETACEOUS PERIOD

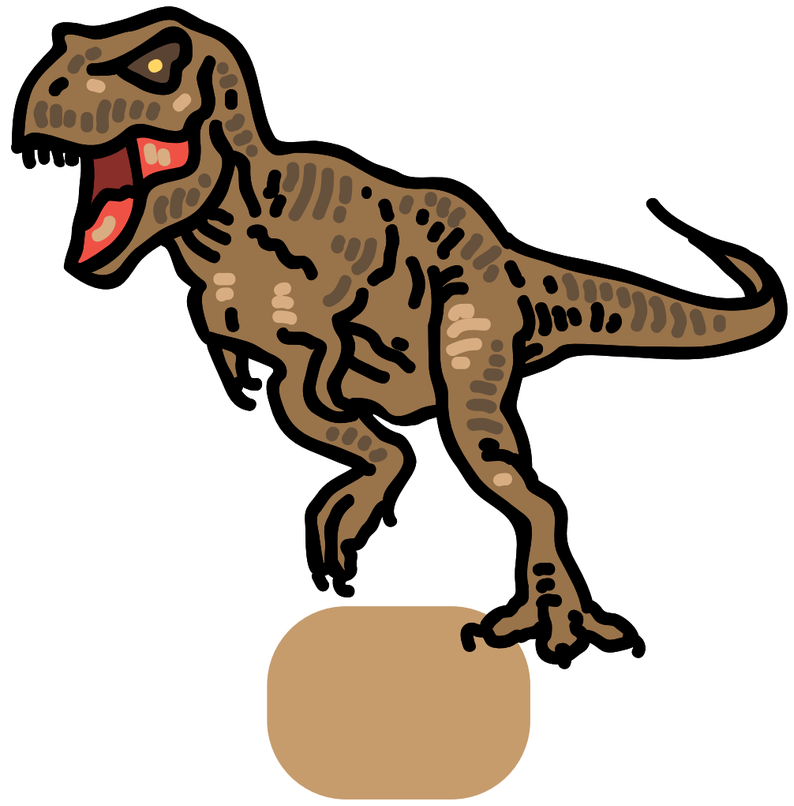
143 - 66 mya

To stick at the end of the Cretaceous Period
(the Cretaceous-Paleogene Extinction Event)



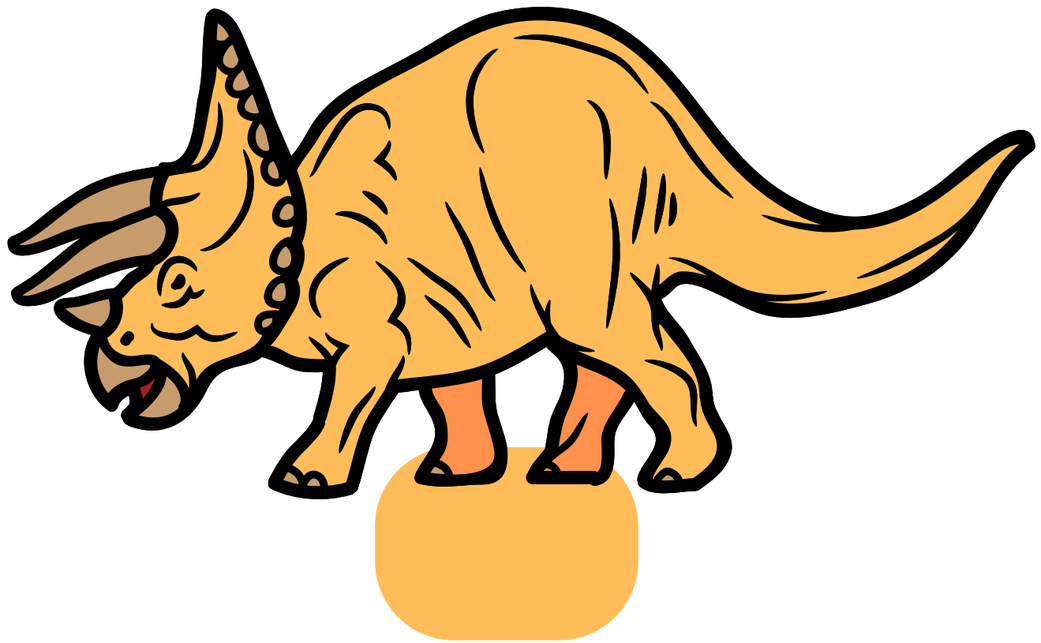
STEGOSAURUS

155 - 145 mya



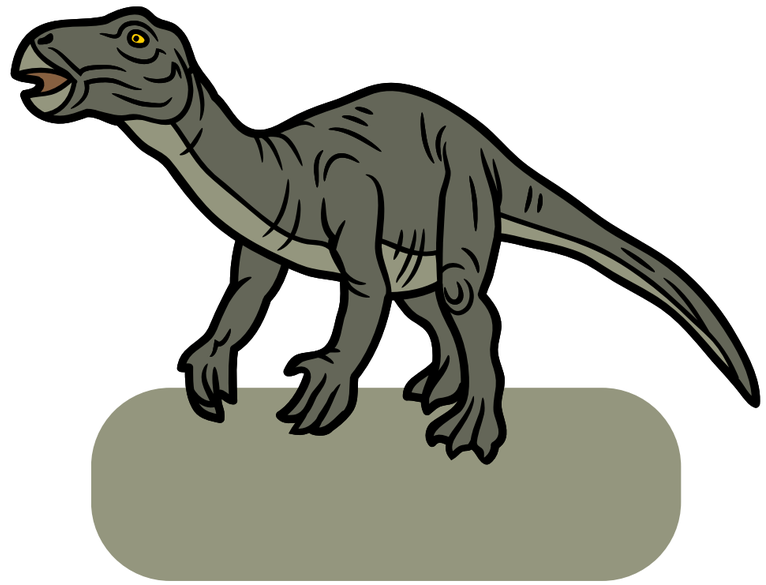
T-REX

68 - 66 mya



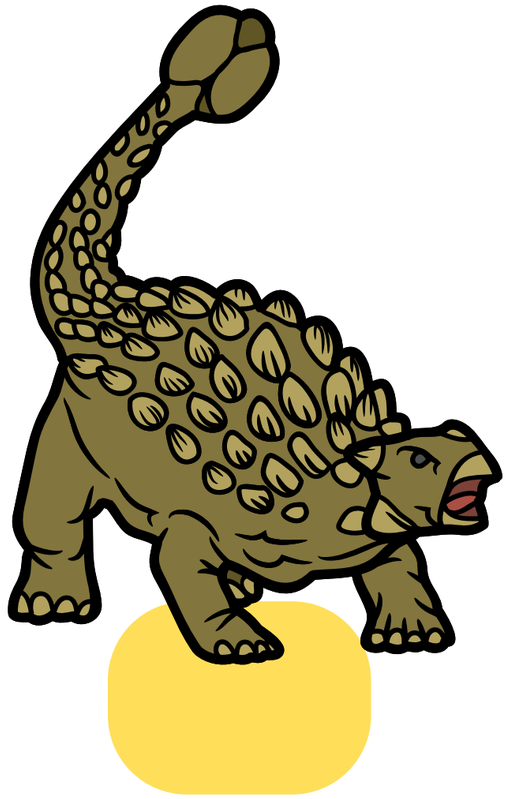
TRICERATOPS

68 - 66 mya



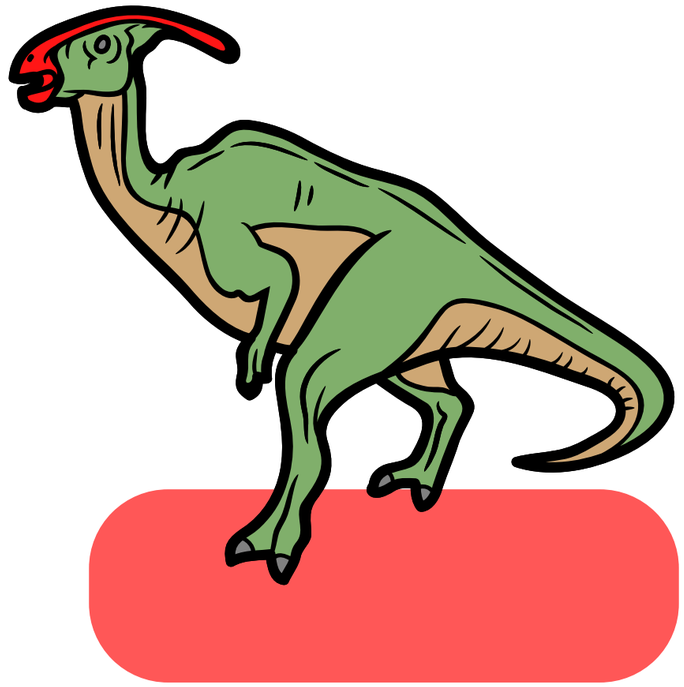
IGUANODON

126 - 122 mya



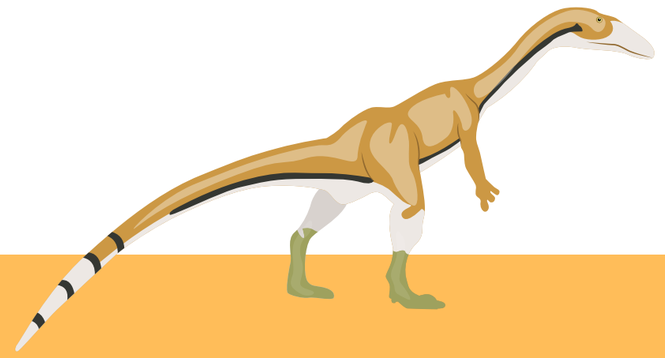
ANKYLOSAURUS

68 - 66 mya



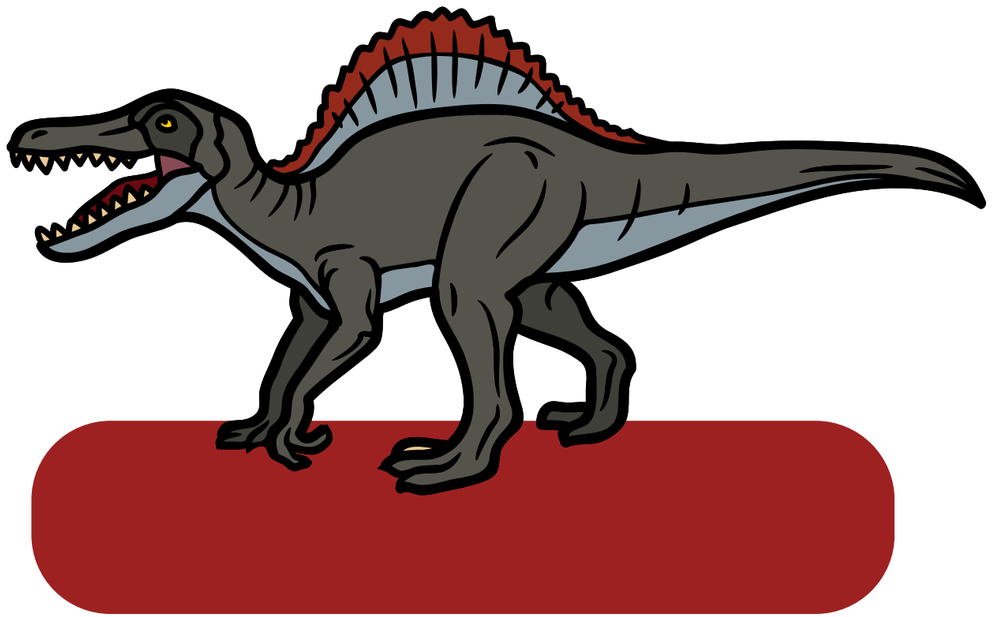
PARASAUROLOPHUS

77 - 73 mya



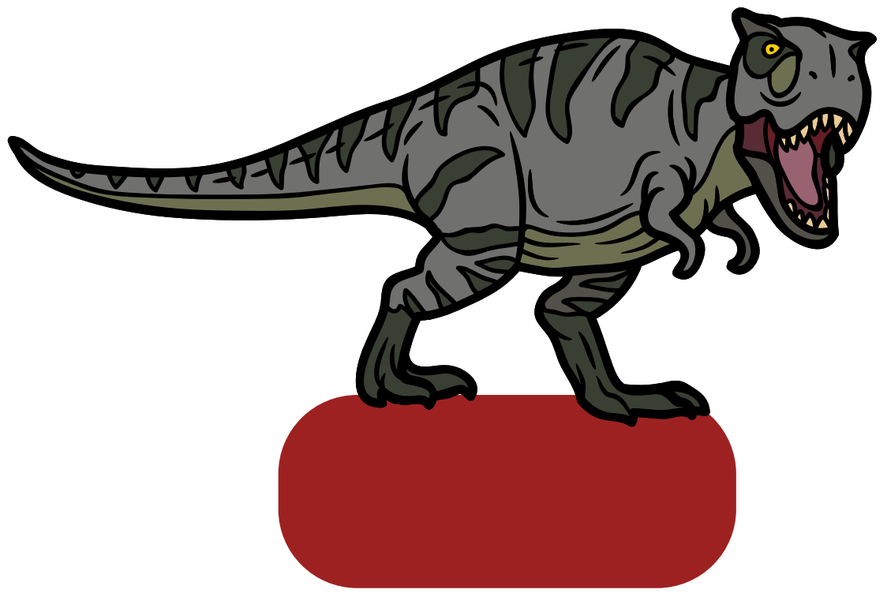
COELOPHYSIS

215 - 201 mya



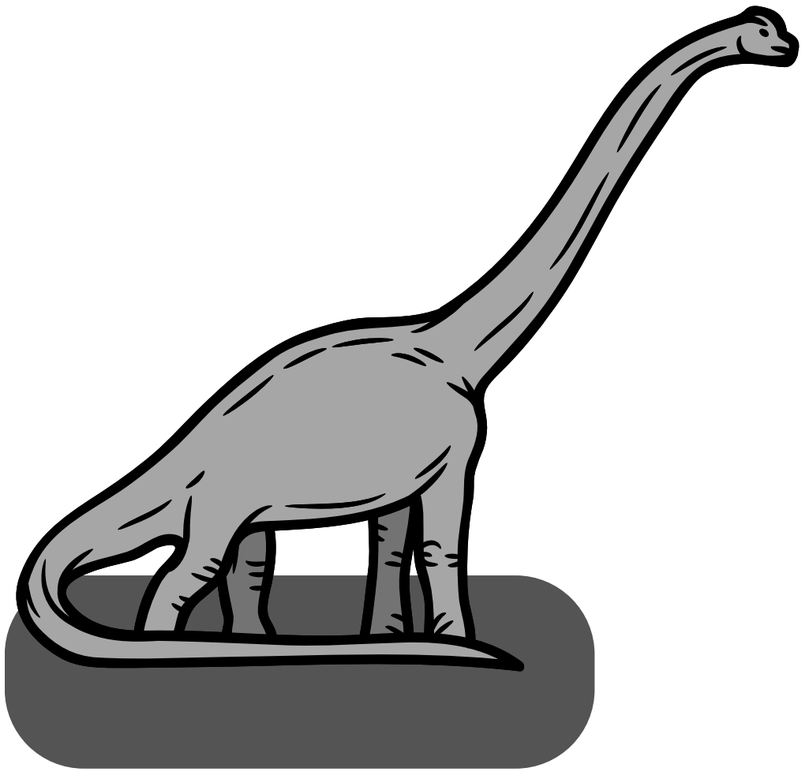
SPINOSAURUS

99 - 93 mya



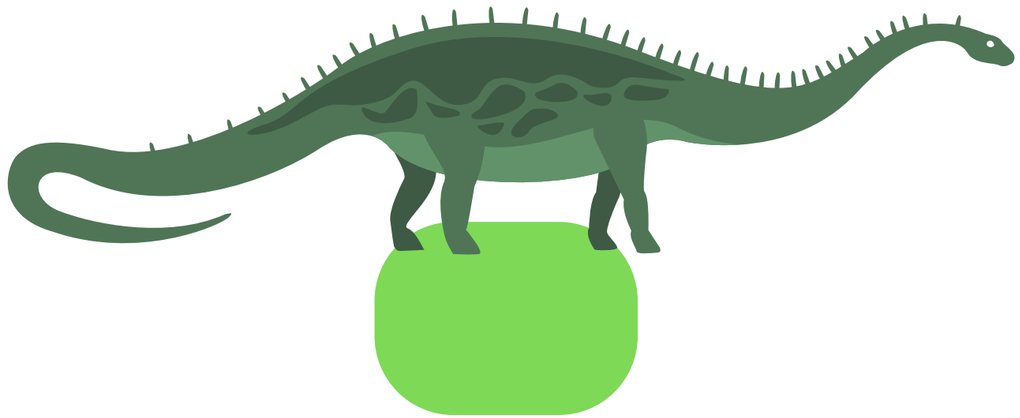
CARNOTAURUS

69 - 66 mya



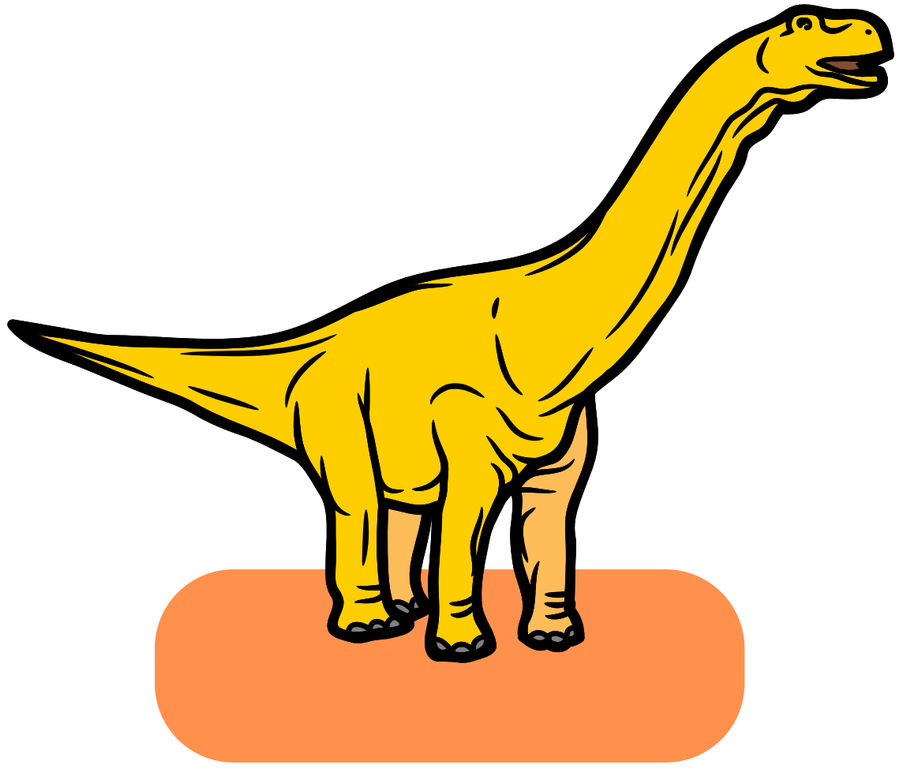
BRACHIOSAURUS

154 - 150 mya



DIPLODOCUS

154 - 152 mya

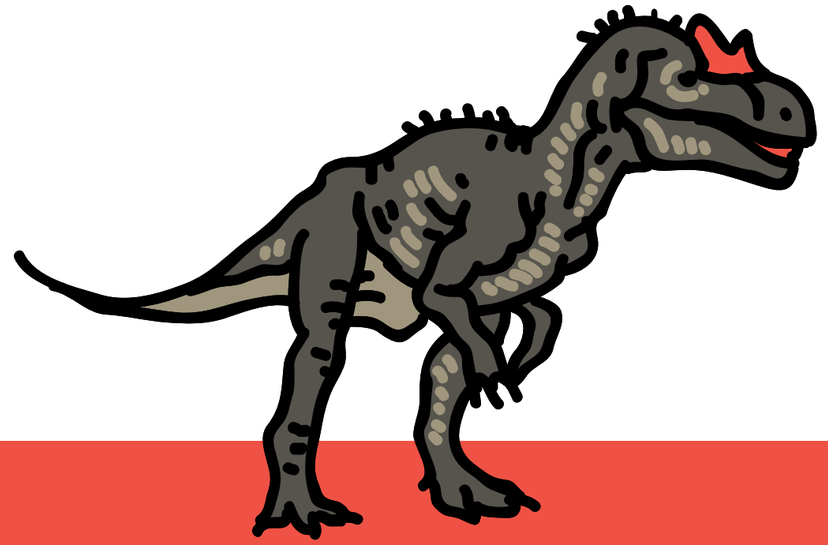


ARGENTINOSAURUS

96 - 92 mya

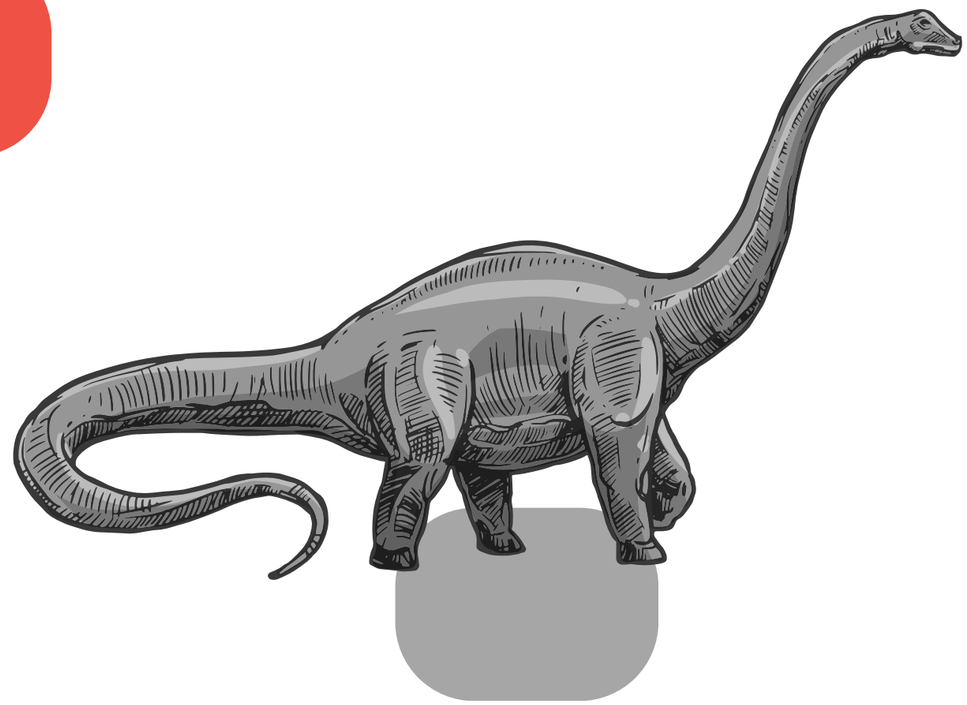
VELOCIRAPTOR

75 - 71 mya



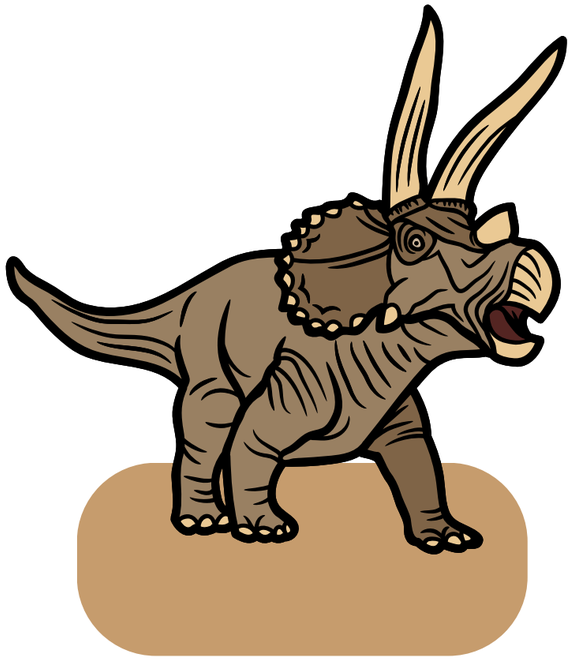
ALLOSAURUS

155 - 145 mya



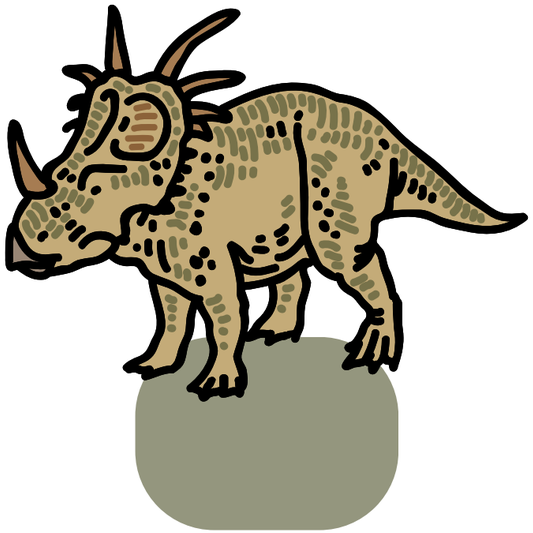
APATOSAURUS

152 - 150 mya



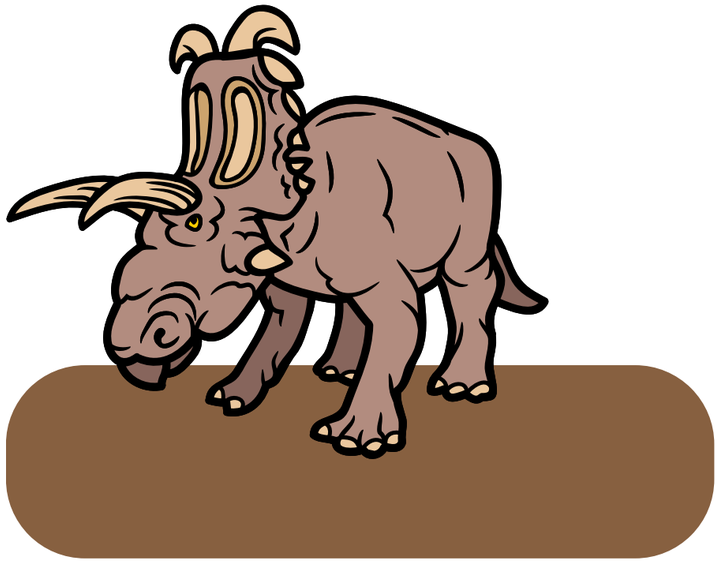
PENTACERATOPS

76 - 73 mya



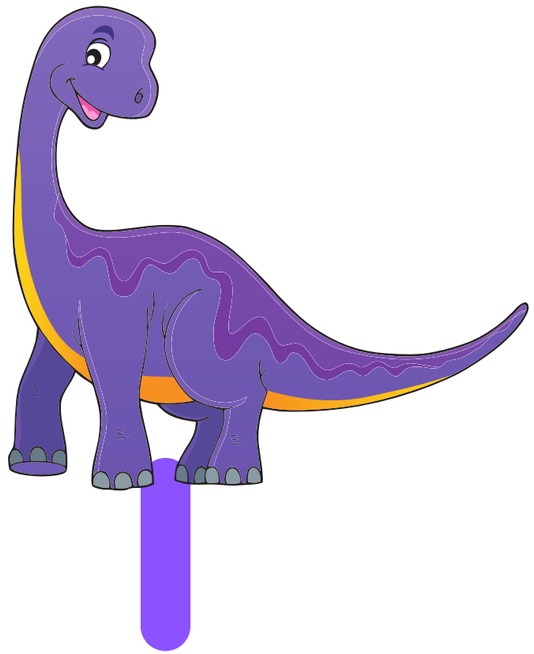
STYRACOSAURUS

76 - 74 mya



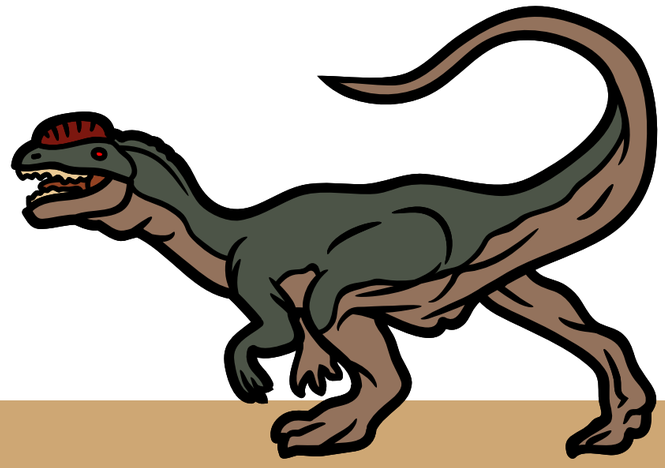
PACHYRHINOSAURUS

73 - 68 mya



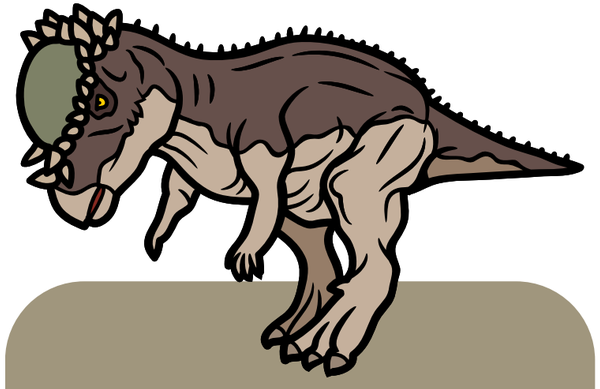
MUSSAURUS

192 mya



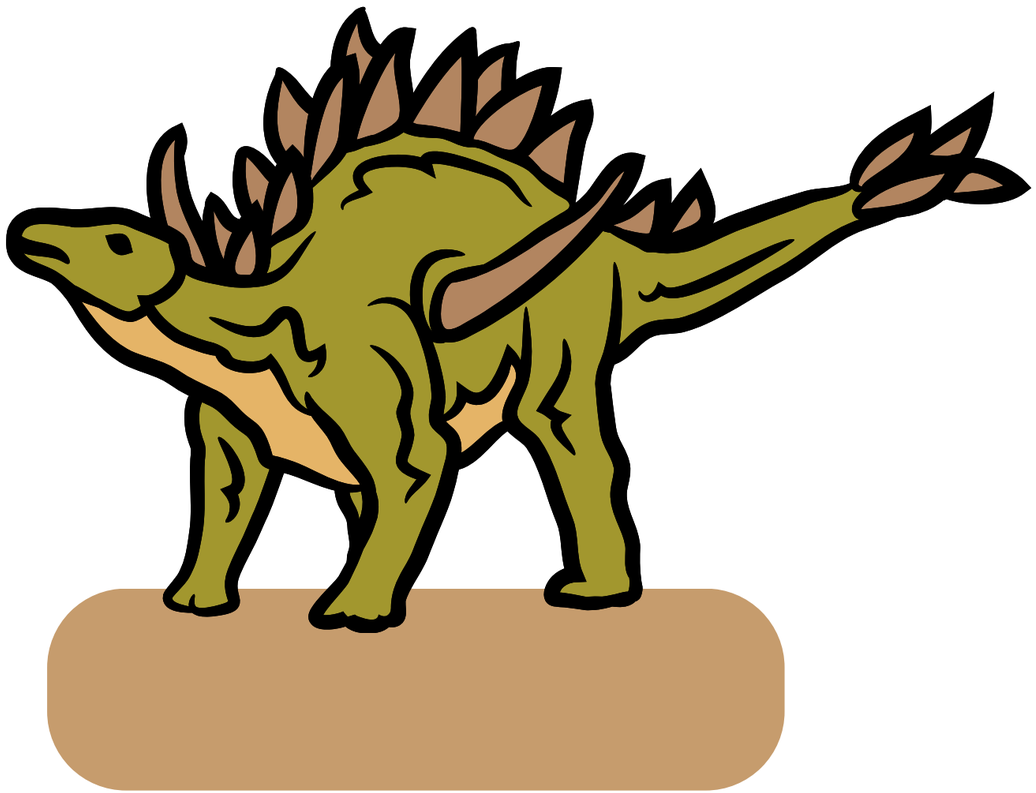
DILOPHOSAURUS

195 - 184 mya



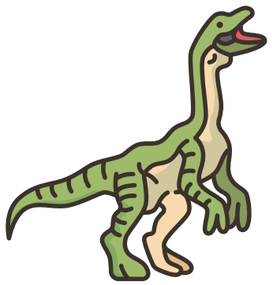
PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS

70 - 66 mya



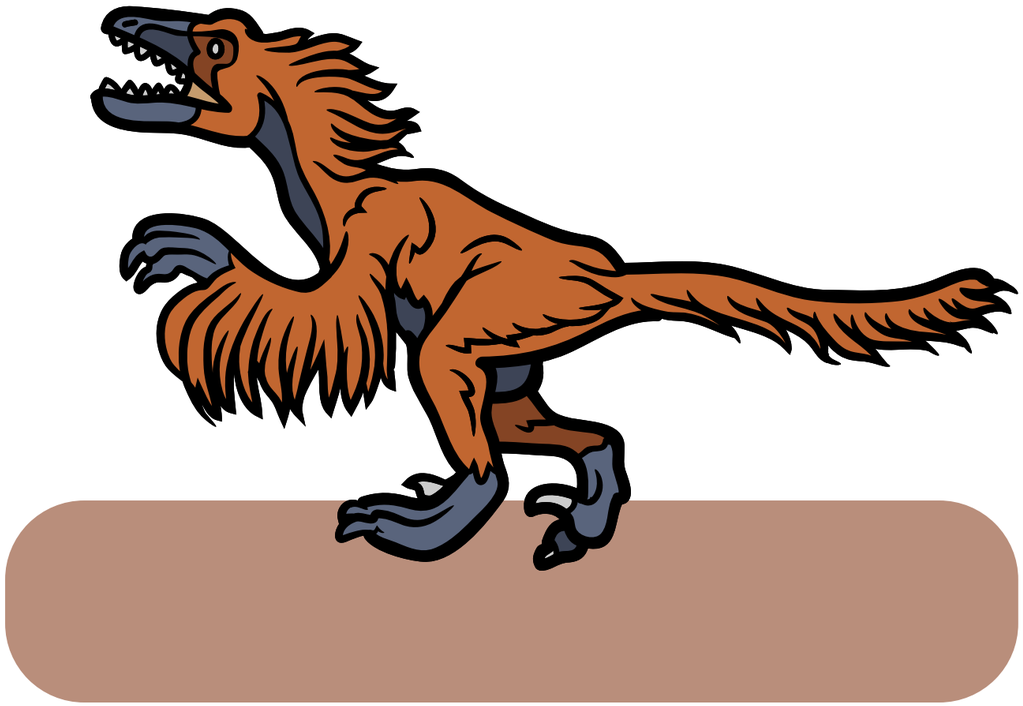
HUAYANGOSAURUS

168 - 163 mya



COMPSOGNATHUS

151 mya

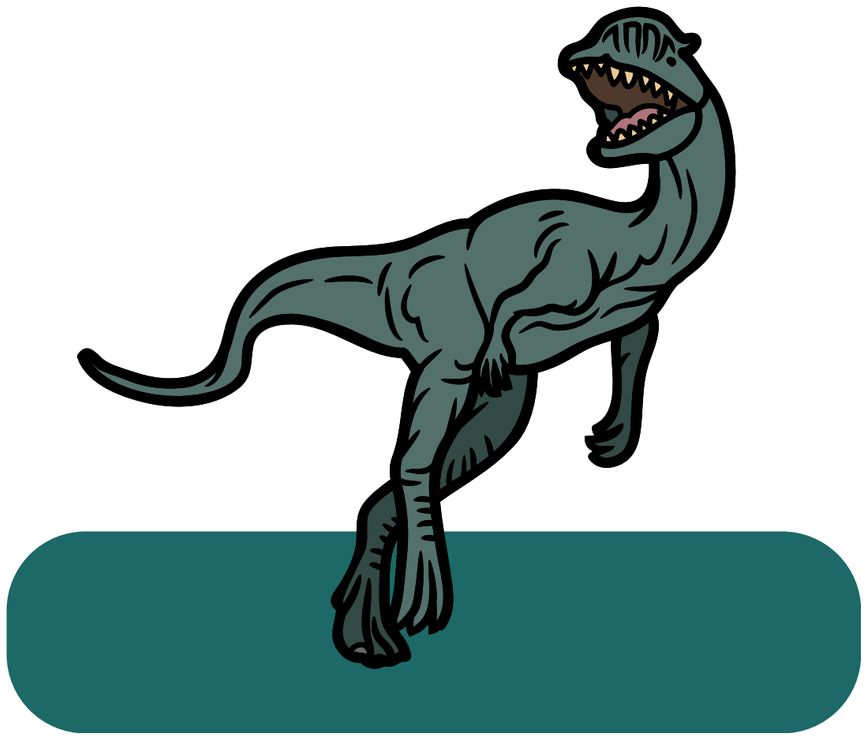


DEINONYCHUS

115 - 108 mya

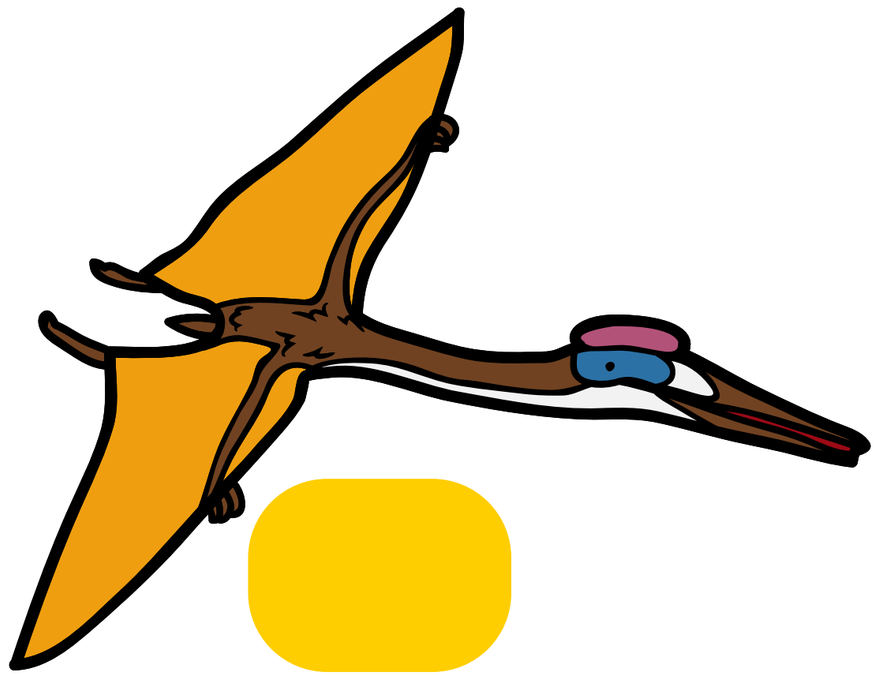
MEGARAPTOR

99-98 mya



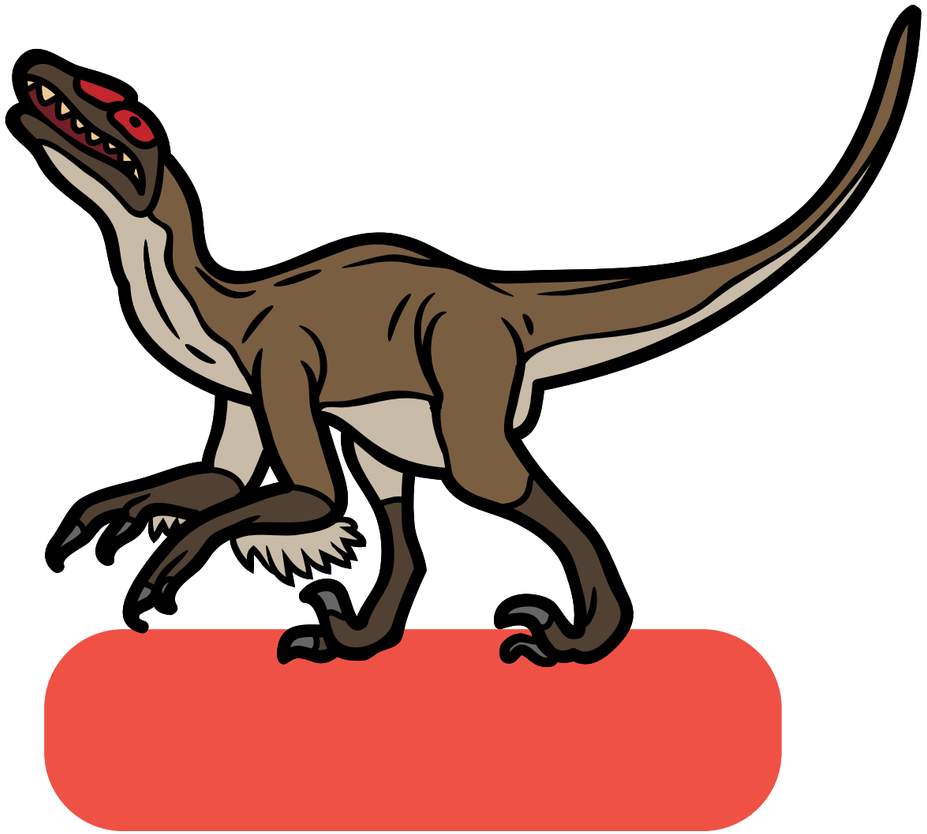
MONOLOPHOSAURUS

166 - 160 mya



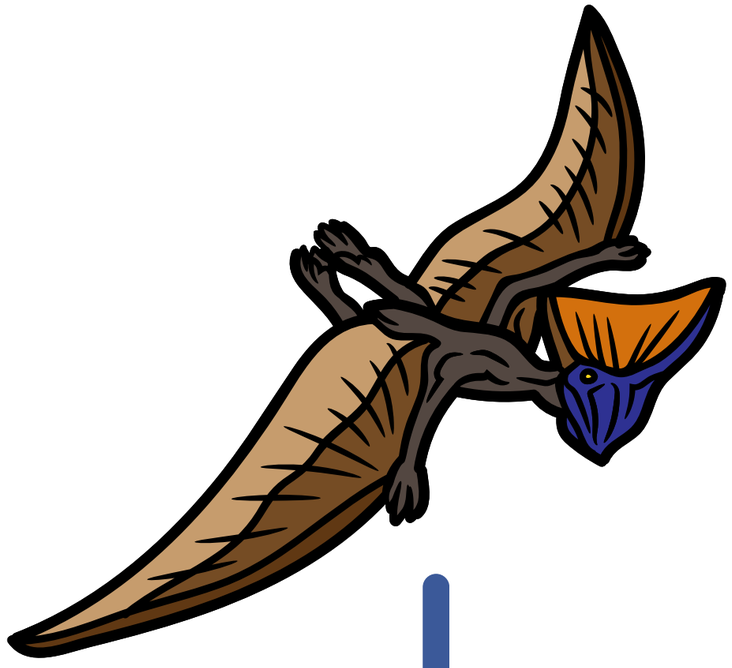
QUETZALCOATLUS

68 - 66 mya



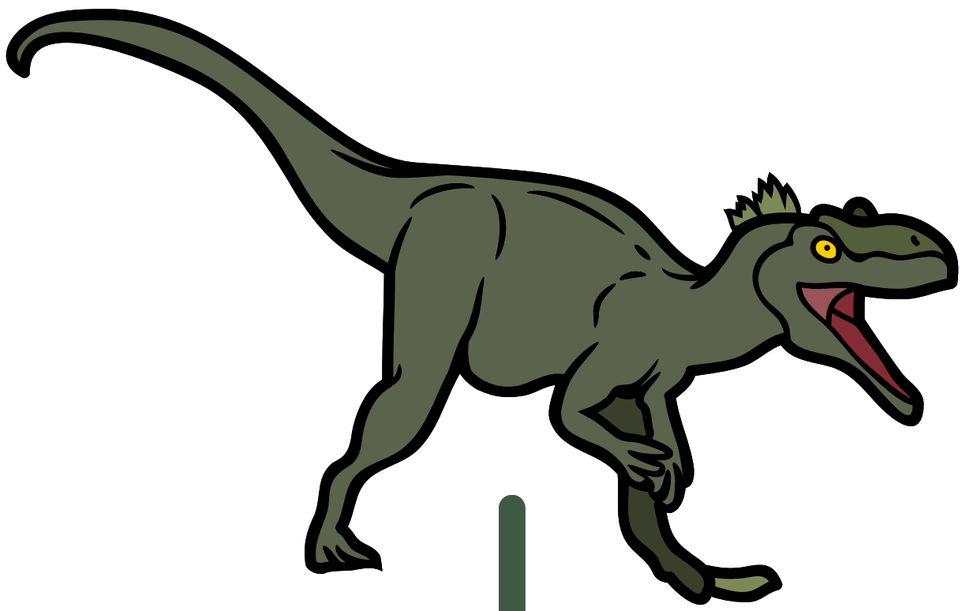
UTAHRAPTOR

135 - 130 mya



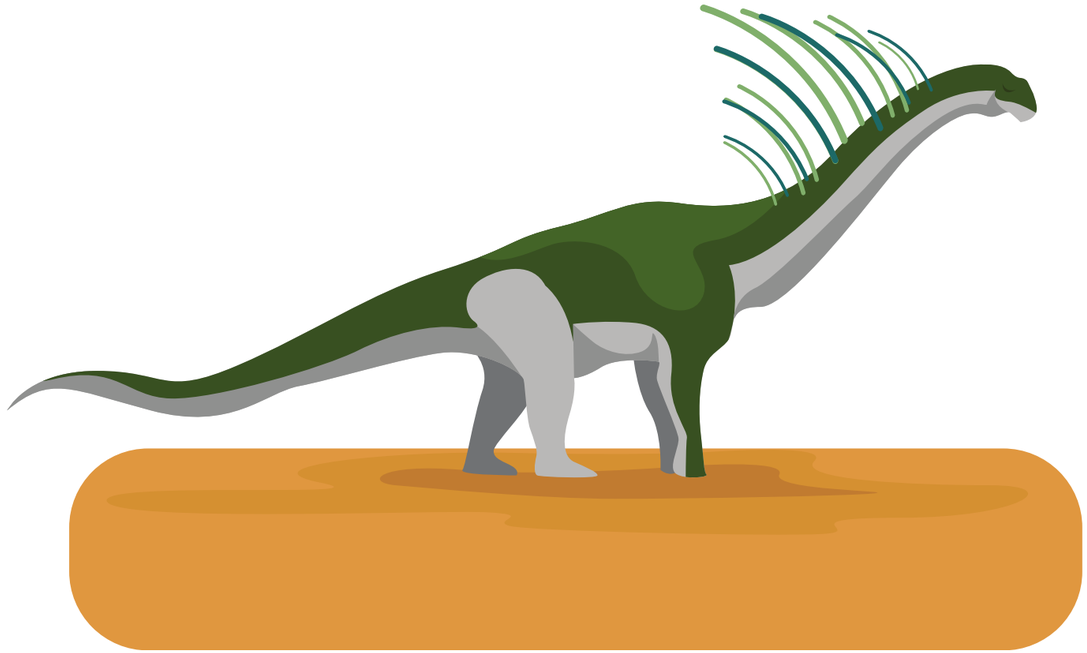
TAPEJARA

112 mya



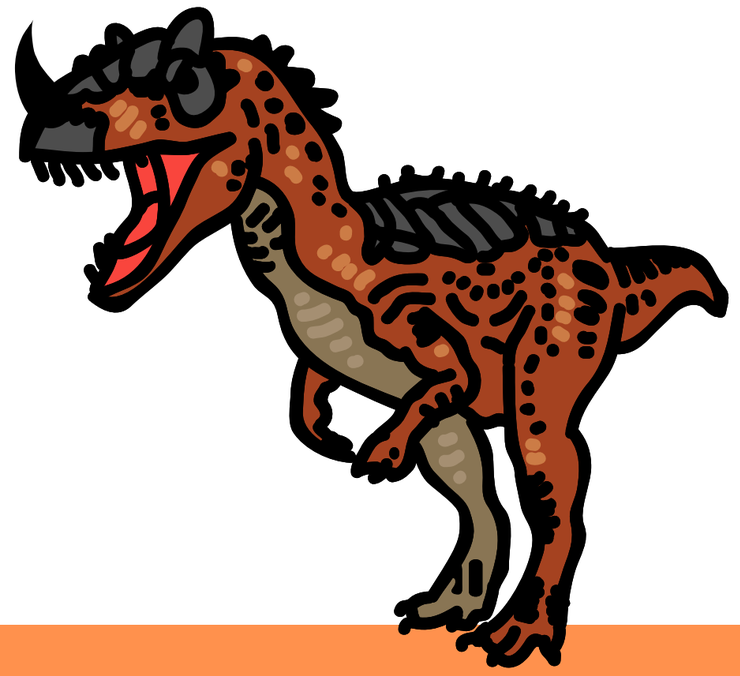
MEGALOSAURUS

166 mya



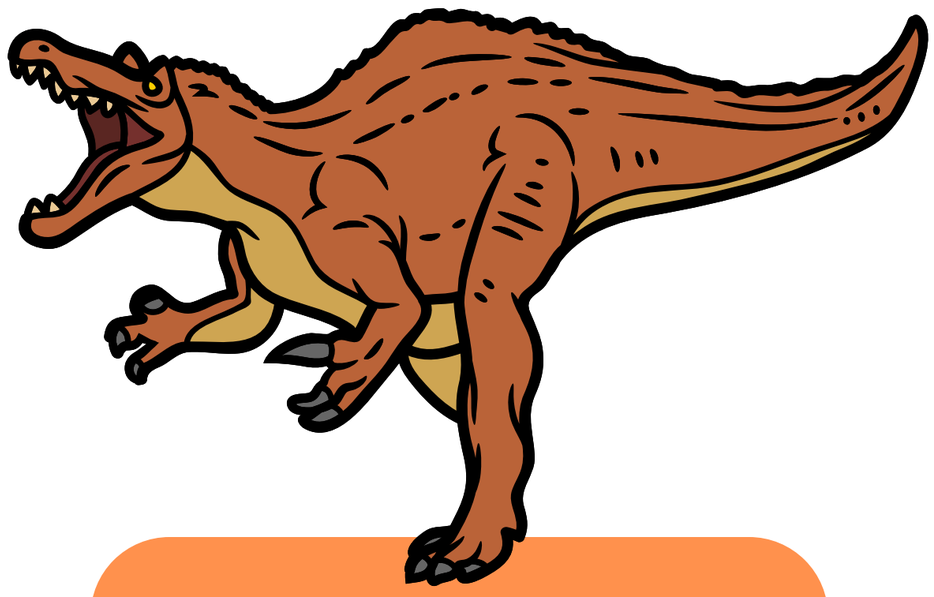
ARMARGASAURUS

129 - 122 mya



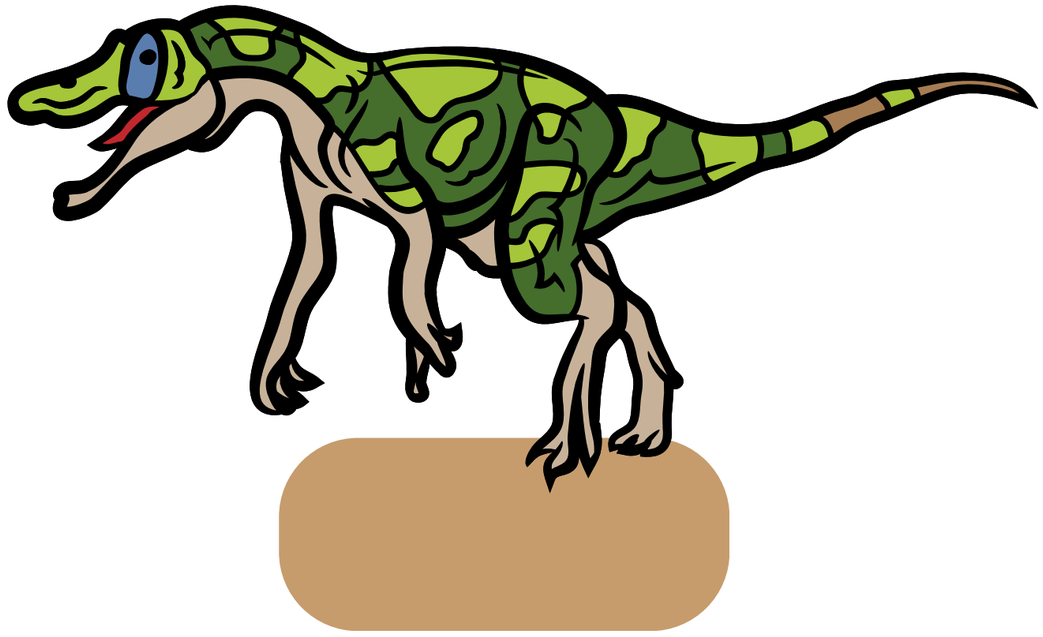
CERATOSAURUS

161 - 145 mya



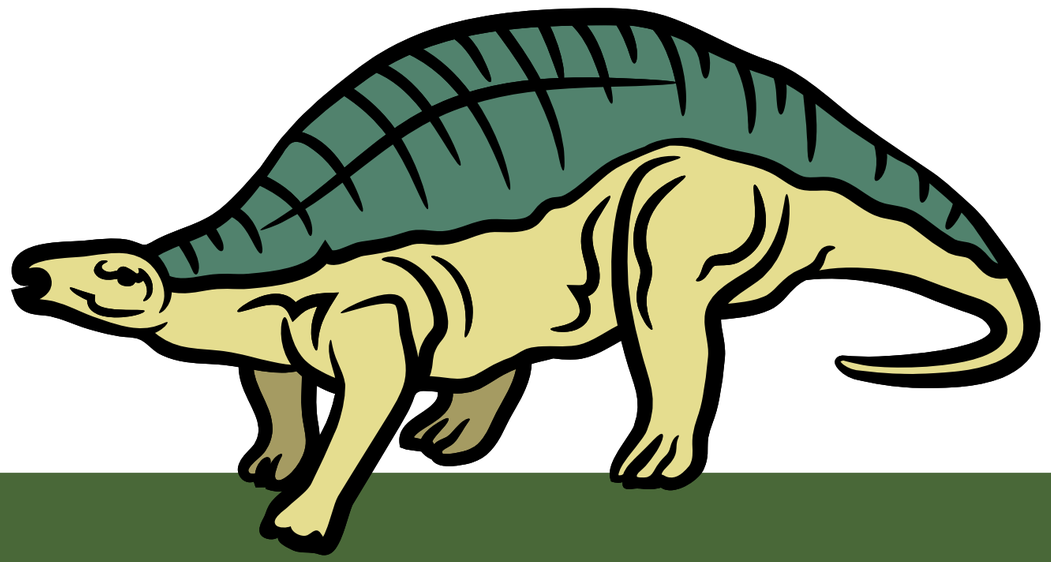
BARYONYX

135 - 130 mya



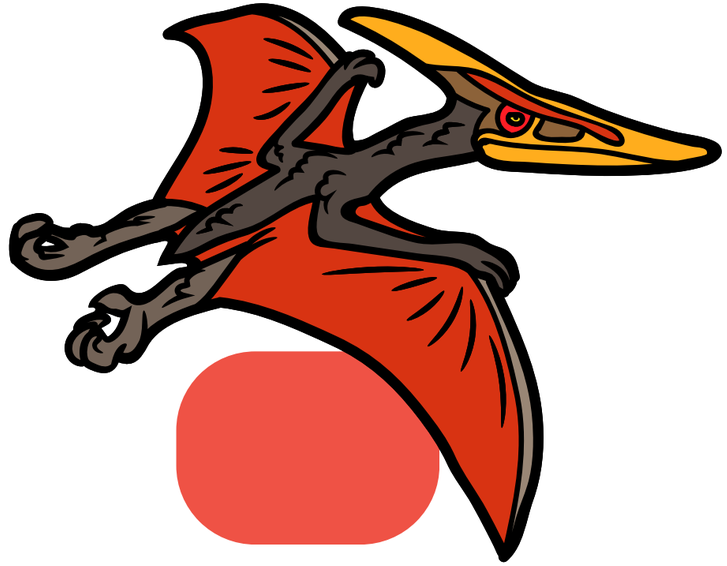
IRRITATOR

113 - 110 mya



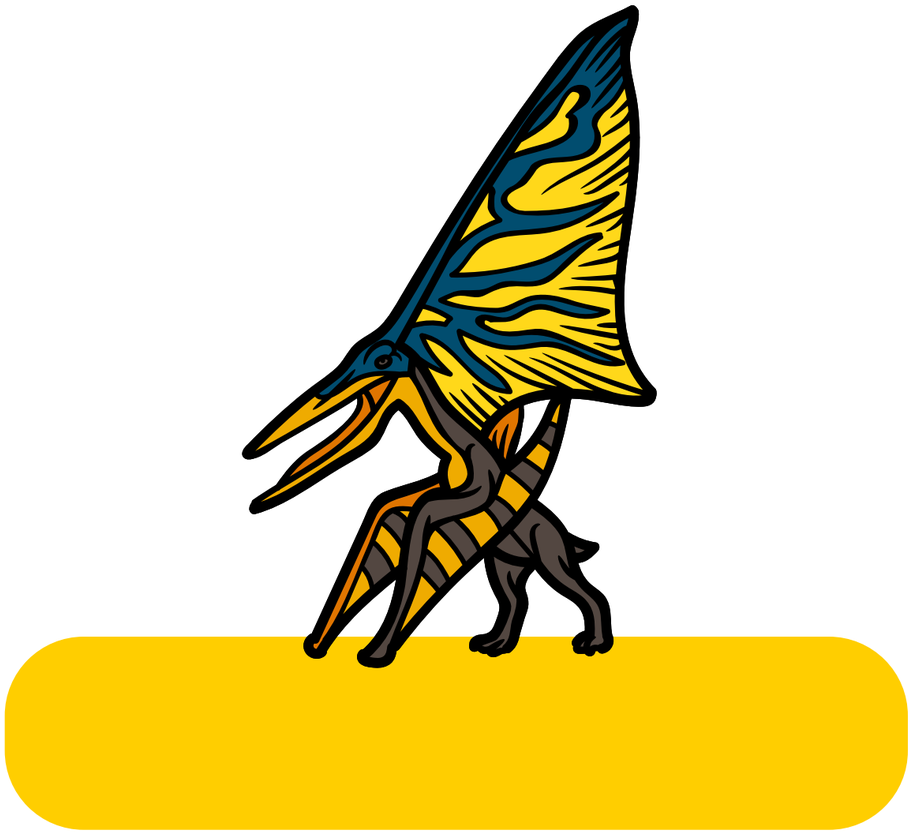
NODOSAURUS

100- 86 mya



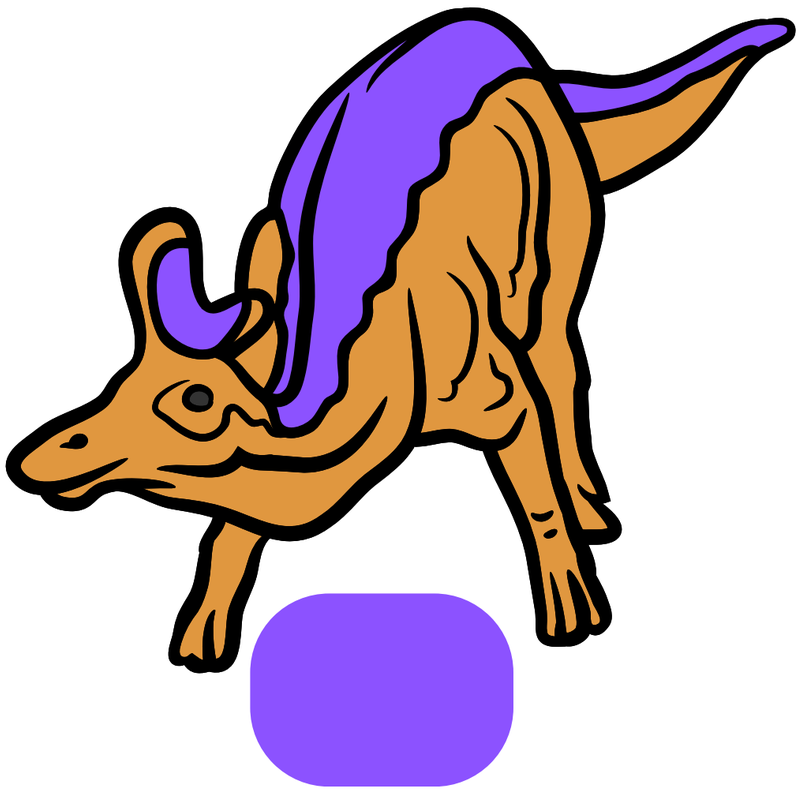
PTERANODON

86- 84 mya



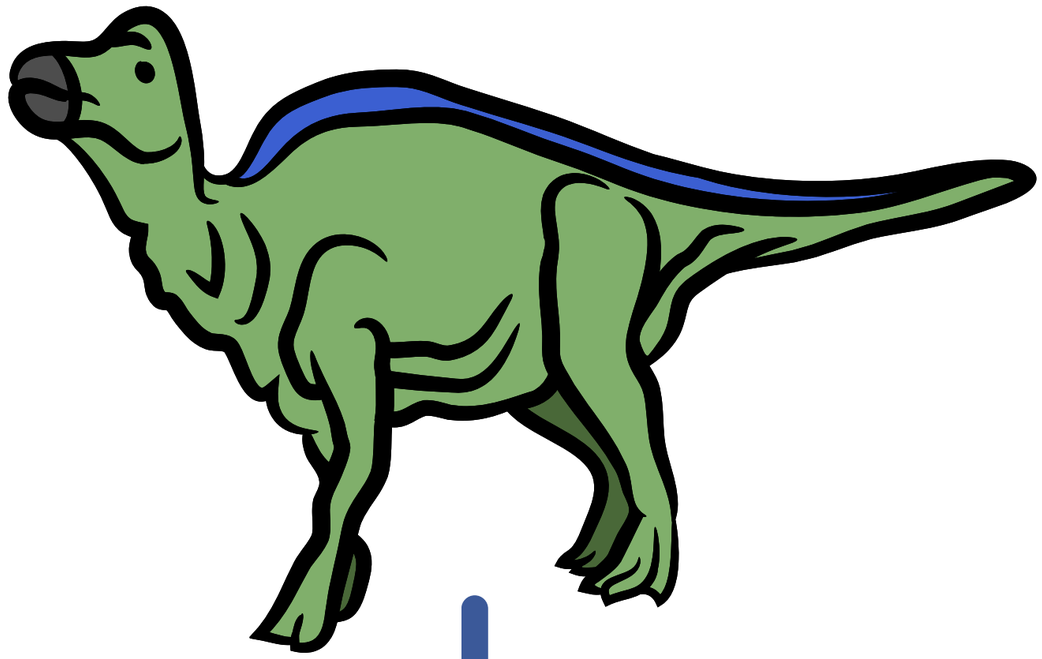
NYCTOSAURUS

86-72 mya



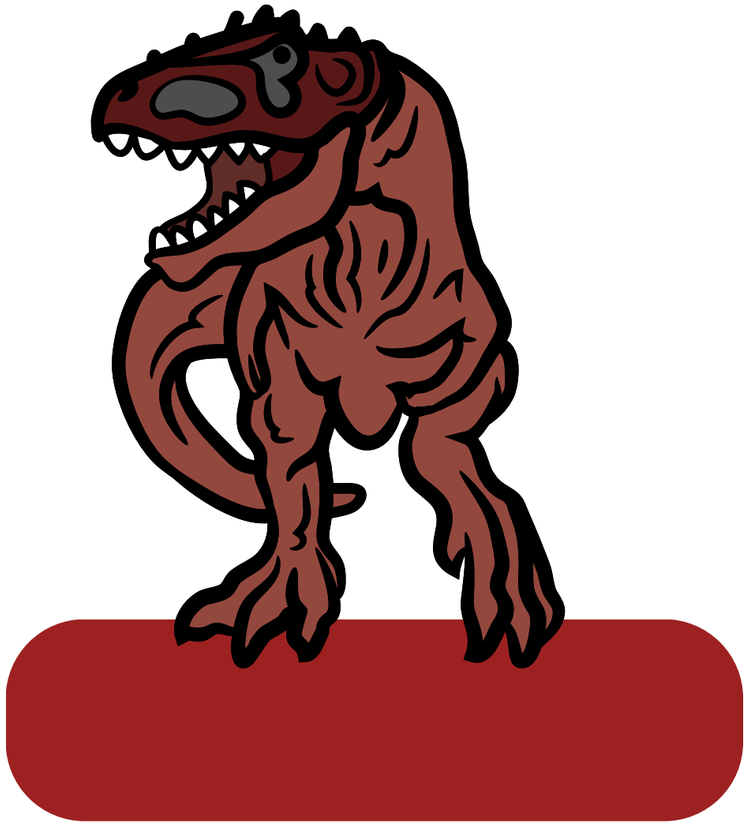
LAMBEOSAURUS

76- 75 mya



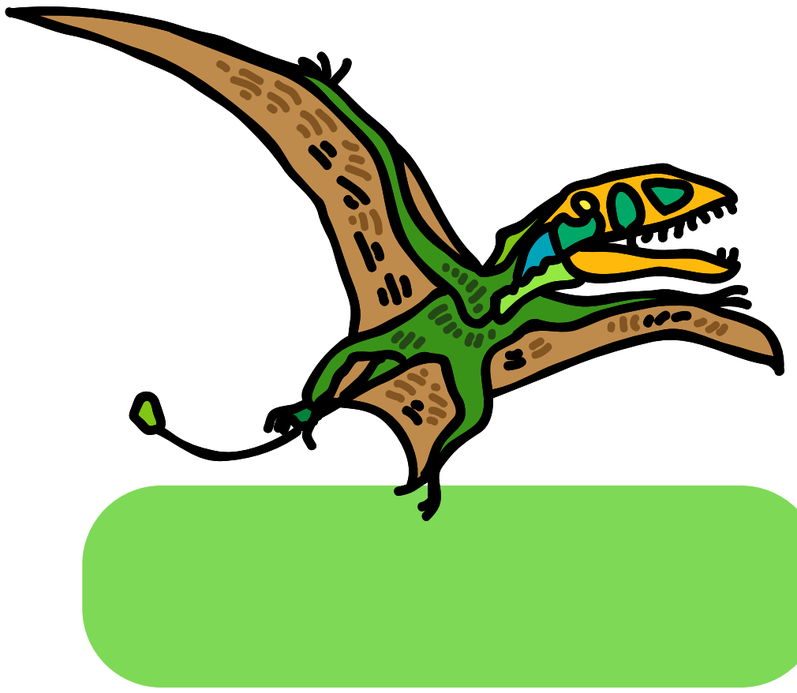
JAXARTOSAURUS

84 mya



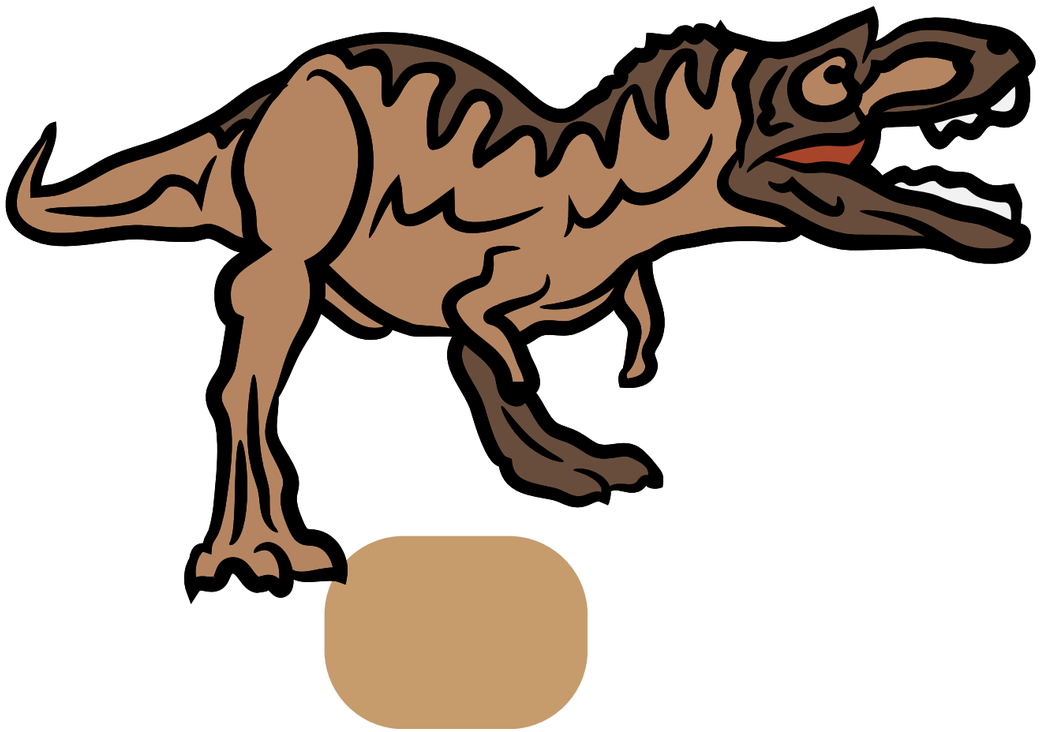
GIGANOTOSAURUS

100 - 95 mya



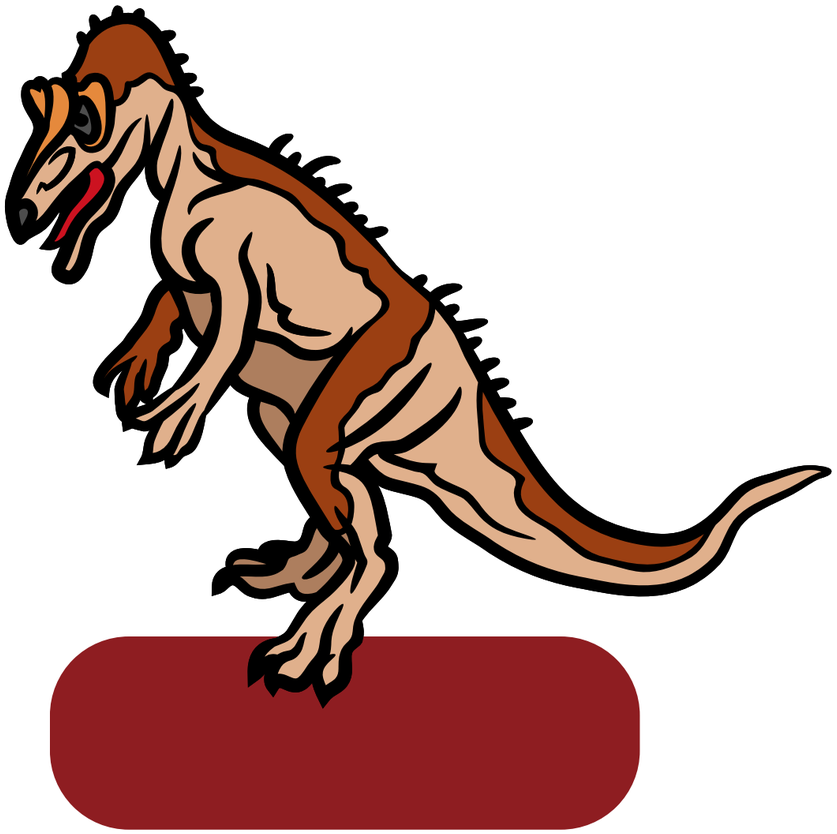
DIMORPHODON

195 - 190 mya



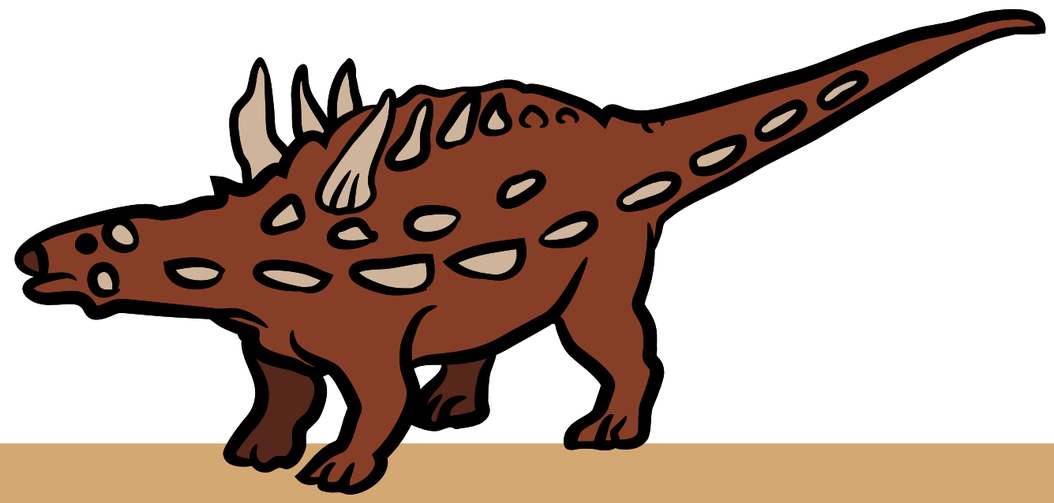
GORGOSAURUS

76- 75 mya



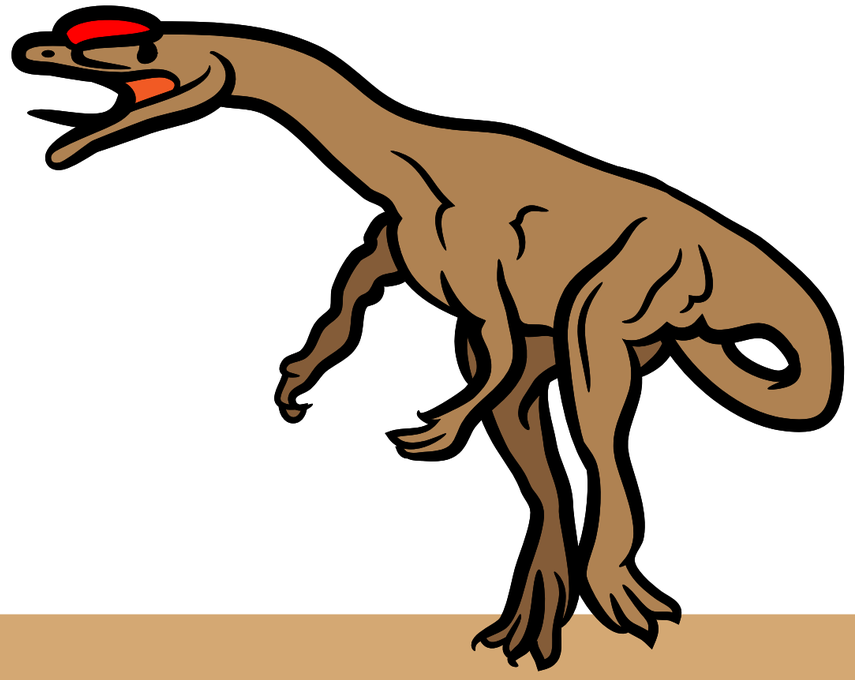
CRYLOPHOSAURUS

186 - 182 mya



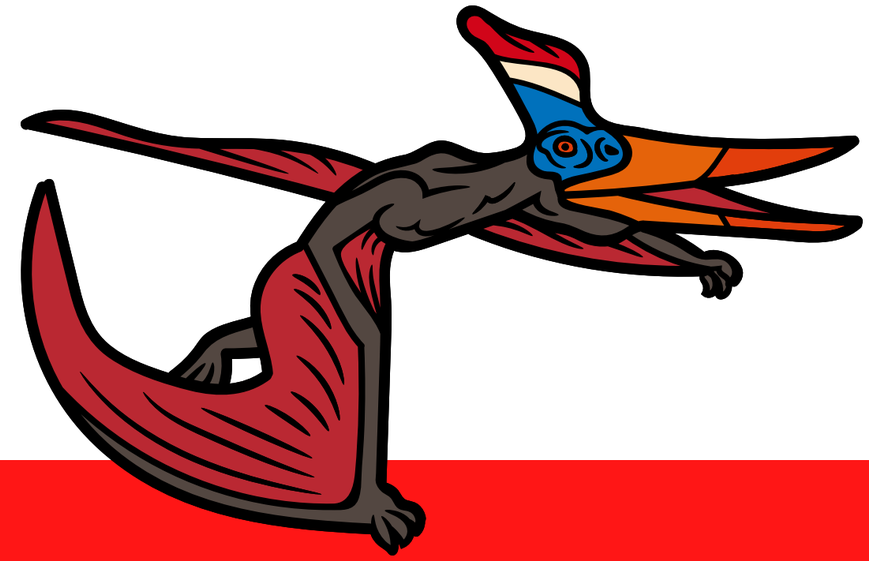
GASTONIA

139- 125 mya



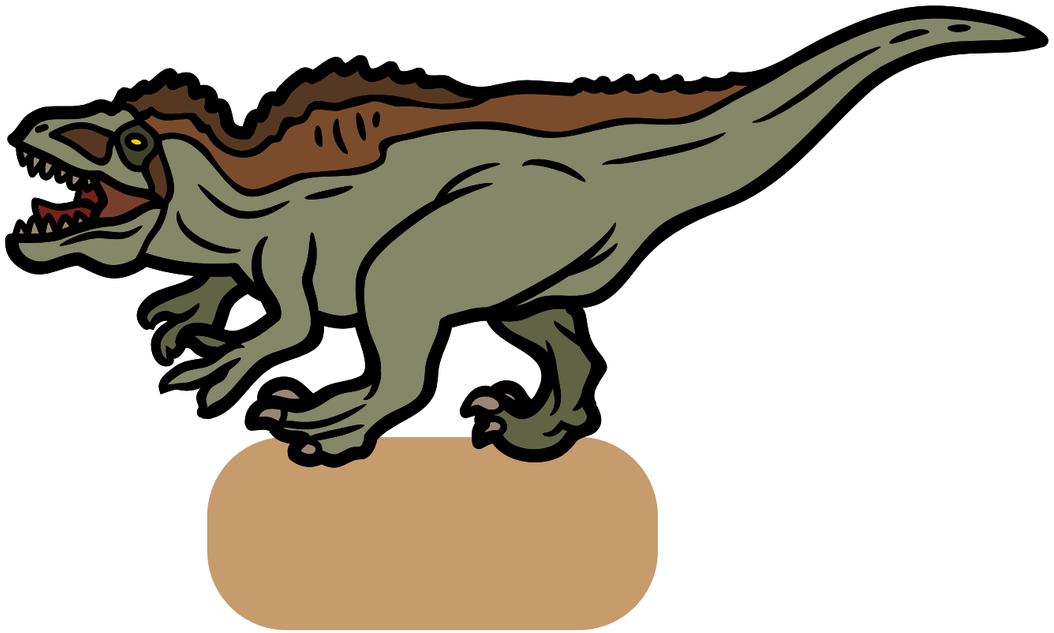
LOPHOSTROPHEUS

205 - 196 mya



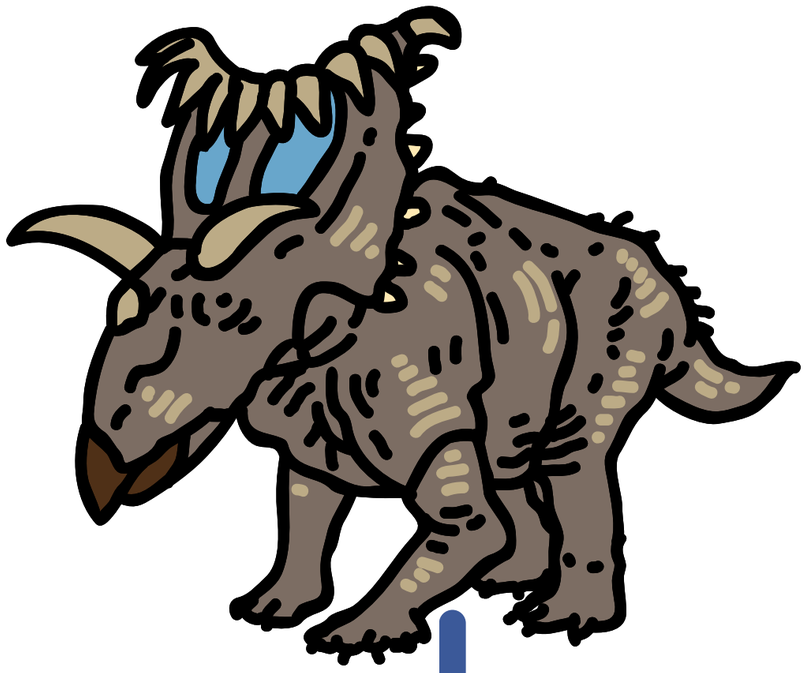
GEOSTERNBERIGA

88 - 80 mya



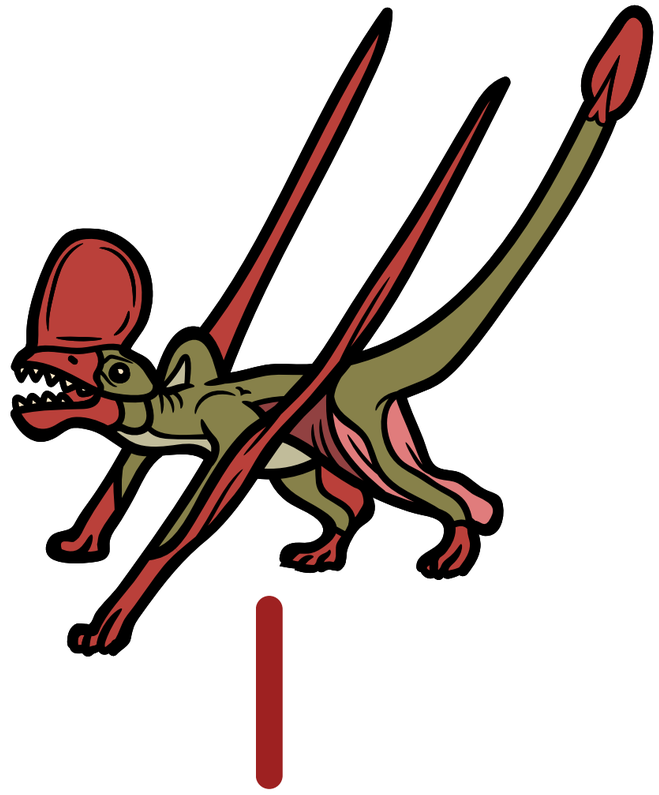
ACROCANTOSAURUS

113 - 110 mya



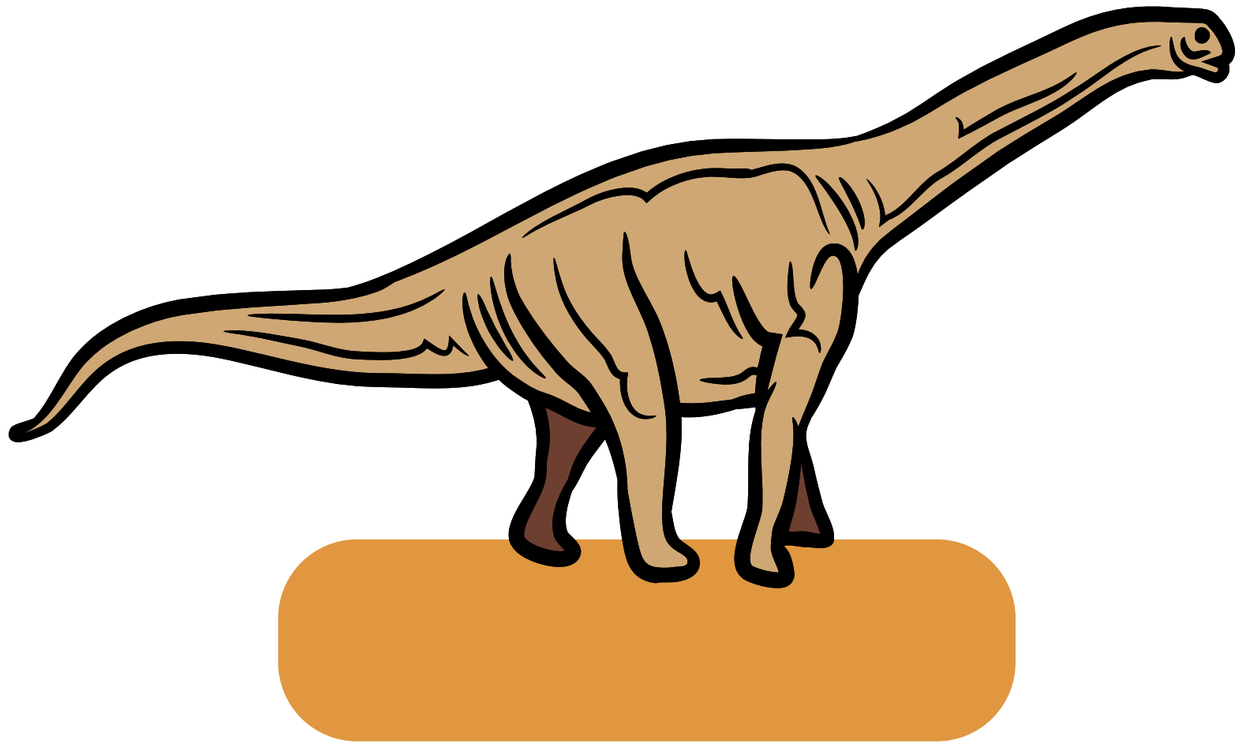
KOSMOCERATOPS

76 mya



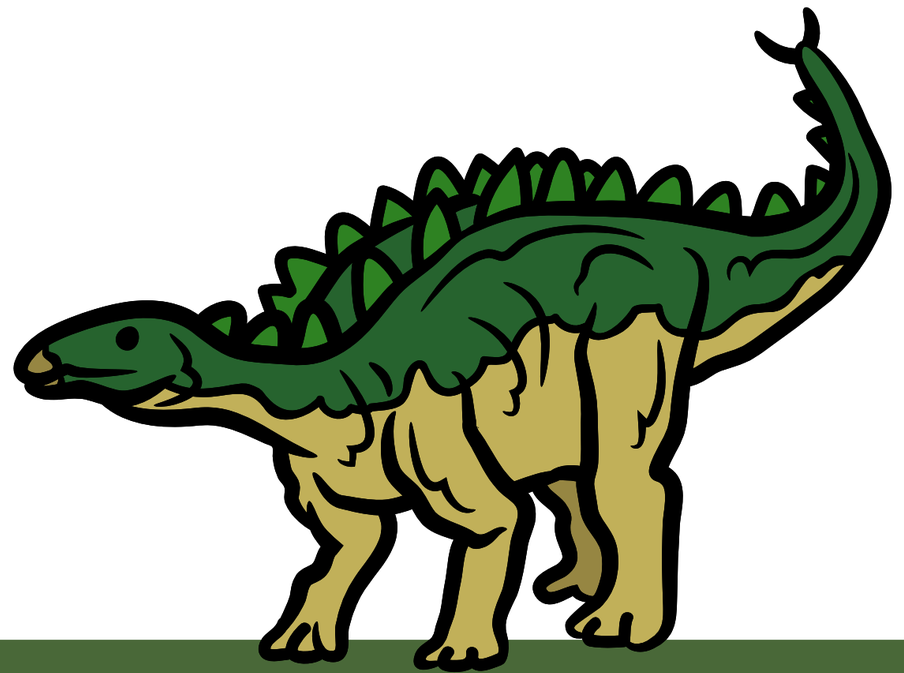
CAVIRAMUS

205 mya



ARAGOSAURUS

145 - 140 mya



DACENTRUS

154 - 140 mya