AWESOME

JURASSIC-ERA DINOSAURS

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An *Apatosaurus ajax* is on display at the University of Wyoming Natural Geological Museum (in Laramie, Wyoming). This image, of the gigantic skeleton, is by Matt Bilden (U.S. Air Force). Click on the image for a really awesome view. Online via <u>F.E. Warren Air Force Base</u>.

Scientists believe the longest dinosaur that roamed the earth during the <u>Jurassic Era</u> was the <u>Diplodocus</u>. (Follow the link to the BBC's <u>video recreation</u> of this <u>sauropod</u>.) These enormous plant-eating creatures weighed up to 30 tons.

A "<u>lizard-hipped</u>" dinosaur whose digestive system processed plant material with the help of <u>stones</u> that the animal swallowed, its <u>fossilized</u> remains have been found at the Morrison Formation (in the western United States) and on all other continents except Antarctica.

Despite its length, <u>Diplodocus</u> was dwarfed by its fellow-inhabitant of the Jurassic Age - the long-necked <u>Brachiosaurus</u> (more appropriately known as <u>Apatosaurus ajax</u>). A skeleton in Berlin's Natural History Museum is 13 meters (about 40 feet) high. Its upper arm bone is more than 6 feet long.

Remains of <u>Stegosaurus</u>, another <u>plant-eating</u> Jurassic dinosaur with <u>spiny spindles</u> (first drawn by Othniel Marsh 100 years ago), have been found throughout the world. Smaller than *Diplodocus*, it weighed seven tons.

But ... the most likely ancestor of *T-Rex*, the <u>Eustreptospondylus</u>, has only been found in England. Due to limited fossil remains, scientists are unsure about the average size and weight of this carnivore.

One of the real giants of the <u>Jurassic Age</u> - or of all times - was the <u>Liopleurodon</u>. With teeth twice the size of the later *T-Rex*, this ocean creature used its <u>monstrous mouth</u> to end the lives of <u>its prey</u>. Paleontologists today are able to study its eating habits from the fossilized remains of its victims.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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Media Stream





Diplodocus - Dinosaur Found in 1899

Postcard image of the *Diplodocus* mount at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

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<u>Diplodocus - Jurassic-Era Dinosaur</u>

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Sea Monsters: Liopleurodon and Its Prey

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<u> Stegosaurus - Walking with Dinosaurs</u>

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