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“Sue”— the most-complete, fossilized *T. rex* ever found—is around 41 feet long, weighs about 4,000 pounds and now has a permanent home at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History. This photo, online via Wikimedia Commons, was taken by OnFirstWhols. License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).

Found at the [Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation](#), on [property](#) owned by a rancher who was part Sioux, Sue - the *T. rex* dinosaur - was at the center of a [huge legal battle](#). The issue: Who owned the creature?

In the end, the court found the United States government held the South Dakota land in trust for Maurice Williams, the rancher. He, in turn, auctioned Sue to the highest bidder - the Field Museum and its partners. At the time, it was the most money ever paid for a fossil: nearly \$8.4 million.

Sue’s 5-foot [skull](#) is [enormous](#) and heavy. It cannot be displayed with the rest of the [skeleton](#).

Instead, a replica sits atop the dinosaur’s fossilized bones while [the skull](#) itself is encased, with [teeth](#) in place, inside a special glass container. Some of [Sue’s teeth](#) are more than a foot long!

Although the brain of this [massive](#) dinosaur was not fossilized, its braincase was in remarkably good shape. Scientists have determined that Sue’s brain was about a foot (or 30.5 centimeters) long. Scans of Sue’s skull, taken by Boeing’s computerized tomography machine, have allowed scientists to create a [digitized version](#).

Studying Sue is an ongoing job since the dinosaur was 90% complete when Hendrickson found it. With articulated bones - meaning they were together in the body, not separated and strewn about - the world’s most famous *T. rex* is 41 feet long and 13-feet high at the hip. That’s a lot of parts to study!

Among other things, Sue surprised paleontologists on two key points:

- Adult *T. rex* dinosaurs ran more slowly than scientists first believed; and
- They had an astonishing sense of smell. Each of Sue’s olfactory bulbs were bigger than its cerebrum (the thinking part of the brain).

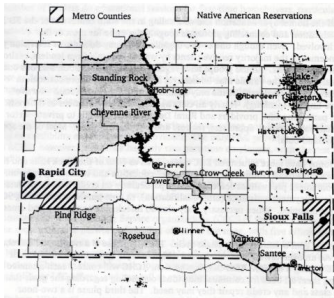
Sue (whose sex cannot be determined) has given scientists much more knowledge than they previously had regarding the fearsome *T. rex*. But no one can tell why Sue died.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/T-REX-SUE-Jurassic-Park>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/T-REX-SUE-Jurassic-Park>



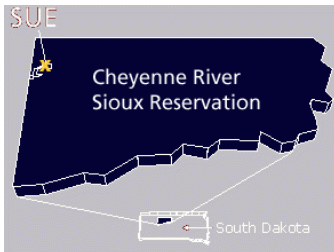
## Cheyenne River Reservation - Resting Place of T. rex Sue

Map image from "Homebuyer Education and Counseling: Examining Rural Provider Networks in Texas, Florida and South Dakota." Online, courtesy Housing Assistance Council.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cheyenne-River-Reservation-Resting-Place-of-T.-rex-Sue>



## Sue Discovery Site - South Dakota Property

Map image online, courtesy Black Hills Institute of Geological Research.

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## T. rex Sue - Skeleton on Display

Photo by Robert Lawton, online via Wikimedia Commons.

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## T. rex Sue - Skull with Teeth

Photo by John Weinstein, for the Field Museum, image # GEO86166\_3c. Copyright, Field Museum, all rights reserved. Small version of the image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with [the Field Museum's T. rex](https://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibitions/t-rex-sue).

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## T. rex Sue - Vicious Teeth

Image online, courtesy Dinohunters.

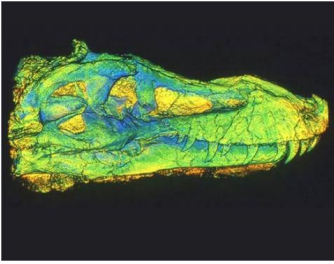
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### T. rex Sue - Teeth Close-up

Image online, courtesy Appalachian State University and Dinohunters.

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### T. rex Sue - Digitized Head

Image online, courtesy Field Museum.

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### T-REX - SUE

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