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This imagined *Triceratops*—a late-Cretaceous-age dinosaur whose scientific name, in English, means "three-horned face"—is on display at JuraPark Baltow, in Poland. Alina Zienowicz took the photo. Online via Wikimedia Commons; license: [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

The first discovered skull of an American *Triceratops* (a Late Cretaceous-age dinosaur) was found by John Bell Hatcher in 1888. These plant-eating creatures had enormous horns and weighed around 5 tons.

Between 1889-1892, Hatcher collected more than 40 skulls and partial skeletons. Within a year of the first *Triceratops* discovery, O.C. Marsh (the first professor of paleontology in the United States) had named the creature. He call it *Triceratops* (Latin for "three-horned face") and published a description of it.

At a time when the state of Wyoming had no roads, Hatcher and his team of assistants loaded the huge skeletons into horse-drawn wagons. The nearest railroad station was 40 miles away.

One of Hatcher's fossils contains the surprisingly small brain cavity of a *Triceratops*. When he studied this specimen, in 1920, Charles W. Gillmore observed:

*...although having immense heads the brain is smaller in proportion to it than in any known vertebrate animal, being but little larger than a man's fist.*

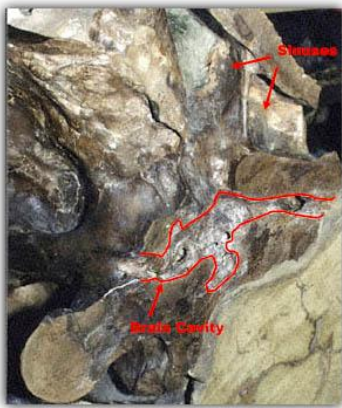
Using many of Hatcher's collected fossils, Gillmore and a colleague prepared the world's first mounted *Triceratops* for the Smithsonian Institute. The unfortunate creature - at the time it lived - was the prey of *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TRICERATOPS-Jurassic-Park)

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## Triceratops - Brain Cavity

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## TRICERATOPS

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