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Mark Stevenson created this image of a pack of *Velociraptors* attacking a *Camarasaurus* dinosaur. In this scenario, the smaller carnivore (meat-eating) *raptor* has a larger brain than the herbivore (plant-eating) *Camarasaurus*. Paleontologists believe that *Velociraptors* hunted in packs, thereby enabling them to “take on” much-larger creatures. Copyright, Mark Stevenson, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with [Stevenson’s art work](#). Click on the image for a better view.

One of *Jurassic Park’s* stars is the *Velociraptor* (or “raptor” in its shortened version).

What kind of dinosaur was this creature whose Latin name means “Speedy raider” and whose family name, *Deinonychosauria*, means “Sickle-Clawed Killer?”

First “discovered” in Mongolia, by Henry Fairfield Osborn in 1924, the raptor was actually quite small. It was also agile and vicious, capable of inflicting serious damage with its “switchblade” (or “sickle”) claw.

When the raptor’s skull was found in Mongolia, it was lying next to the skull of a *Protoceratops* - its likely prey. With its fearsome claw, the *Velociraptor* had lived up to its family name.

Since they may have hunted in packs, raptors could have killed much larger animals. Paleontologists, however, do not believe *Velociraptors* inflicted the type of damage depicted in *Jurassic Park*.

On the *other* hand, a 1991 dinosaur discovery in Utah bolsters the belief that certain raptors (although not the *Velociraptor*) were large predators. With its lethal claw, *Utahraptor* (variously translated “Utah Raider” or “Utah Robber”) appears to have been a much more ominous creature than even the stars of *Jurassic Park*.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VELOCIRAPTOR-Jurassic-Park>

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Mongolia - Home to Velociraptors

Image online, courtesy American Museum of Natural History.

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Velociraptor Skull

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