Carnotaurus and Indominus Rex

Carnotaurus, a theropod dinosaur which likely weighed around one ton and measured about 25 feet long, roamed the plains of South America during the Late-Cretaceous Period.

Among its features were these:

- Unusual hornlike projections on its skull
- A short, deep snout
- Stubby forelimbs with short lower arm bones
- A thick neck
- Small bumps across its body.

Only one *Carnotaurus* fossil has been found so far. It was discovered during 1985, in Argentina, by Jose Bonaparte.

Amazingly, most of the skeleton, its skull and skin impressions were unearthed. Such a detailed discovery is very rare in paleontology.

The creature's hornlike projections on its skull, resembling a bull's, led to its name—*Carnotaurus*—which means "Meat Eating Bull."

Although *Carnotaurus* resembles *T. rex*, paleontologists believe they are very distantly related theropods. In addition, the South American dinosaur had teeth which were about 7.5 times smaller than the teeth of a *T. rex*.

Most likely a faster runner than *T. rex*, *Carnotaurus* had a huge thigh muscle which comprised around 15% of its entire body weight. Paleontologists who have studied *Carnotaurus* believe it was probably a faster runner than all the other theropods.

The creature which Dr. Bonaparte found, in Argentina, likely lived in a place which was dominated by a lake or a lagoon. The climate, when Carnotaurus was alive, was warm but included wet-and-dry seasons.

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Information about Carnotaurus from the BBC's "Walking with Dinosaurs" website, and its page on Carnotaurus.

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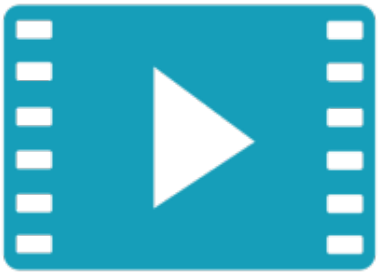

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