## What Is a Dinosaur?

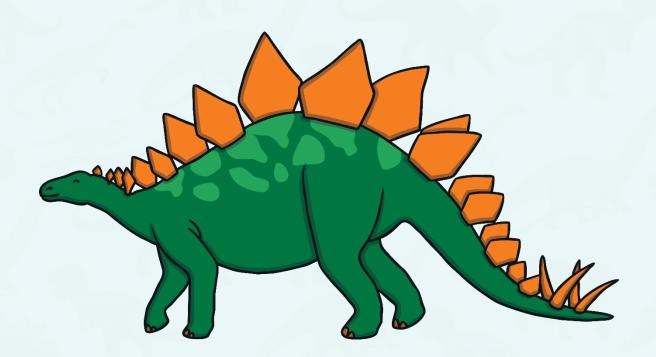




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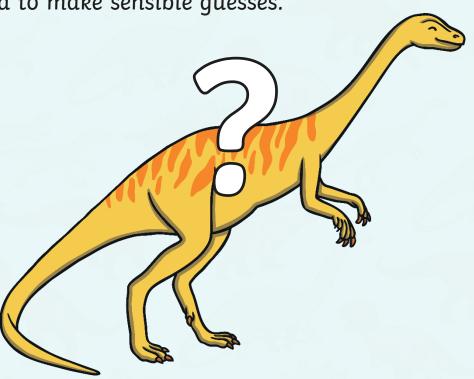
Dinosaurs were a kind of prehistoric reptile that lived during the Mesozoic Era, the "Age of Reptiles".

They lived millions of years ago, <u>before</u> people.



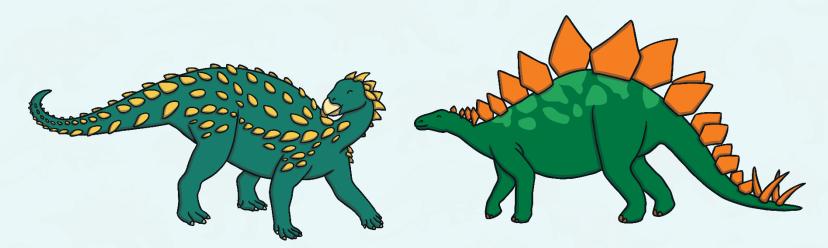
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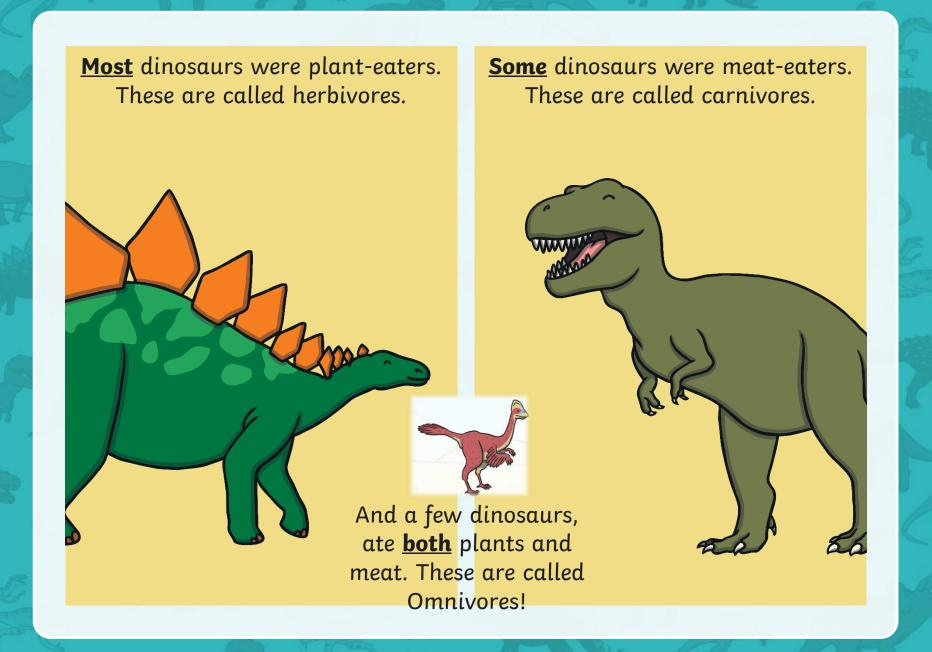
Because humans didn't exist during the time of the dinosaurs, nobody has ever seen one! For this reason, we can't be 100% sure how the dinosaurs sounded, how they behaved, how they had babies or what colour and pattern they were but scientists can use clues from the things they left behind to make sensible guesses.



## We know that there were lots of different kinds of dinosaurs that lived at different times.

- Some walked on two legs and some on four. Some could do both!
- Some were speedy and some were slow and lumbering.
- Some had thick, bumpy skin. Some even had feathers.
- Some were armour plated, some had horns, crests, spikes or frills to defend themselves.





Most dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago, probably because of an asteroid that hit the earth. This explosion would have made a big change to the climate, and the dinosaurs couldn't adapt.



