

## Get to Know Dinosaurs

## What Species of Animal Were Dinosaurs?

Dinosaurs were reptiles that lived millions of years ago. Like today's reptiles, dinosaurs laid eggs, and had backbones, lungs, and scaly skin.



Two key features that help scientists to identify dinosaurs are: (1) their skulls that have two holes behind the eye sockets, and (2) their hip bones that resemble those of lizards or birds.

Most scientists think that dinosaurs lived on land and walked with their legs under their bodies—not out to the sides like alligators. Many different kinds of dinosaurs lived all over the world.

1. Why are dinosaurs considered reptiles?

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2. How do dinosaurs differ from alligators?

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3. What two features help scientists identify dinosaurs?

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4. Name some reptiles that are living today.

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5. Which living reptile do you think looks most like a dinosaur? Why?

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6. Name some other animals that walk with their legs under their bodies.

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## Where Did Dinosaurs Come From?

Scientists believe the ancestors, or early relatives, of dinosaurs developed from amphibians.


Amphibians, such as frogs and salamanders, can live on land, but they must keep their skin wet and return to water to lay eggs.




Amphibians that lived long ago looked like big salamanders. Over millions of years, some of them developed into animals with stronger skeletons, tougher skins, and hard eggs. These new animals were the first reptiles. One ancient group of reptiles, called thecodonts, were slim and fast. In time, they developed into dinosaurs.

Answer the questions below by filling in the correct answers. The first one has been done for you.

1. Which animal is an amphibian?

 a cat


 an elephant


 a thecodont


 a frog

2. What does ancient mean?





 wet skin

 five years old

 very old

 young

3. How did some ancient amphibians develop into reptiles?

-  They walked more on the ground.
-  They developed stronger skeletons, tougher skins, and harder eggs.
-  They laid their eggs in the water.
-  They became slim and fast.

4. Which animals lived first?

-  amphibians
-  dinosaurs
-  alligators
-  mice

5. What was one of the first groups of reptiles called?

-  rats
-  thecodonts
-  salamanders
-  frogs

6. Over time, thecodonts developed into \_\_\_\_\_.

-  frogs
-  amphibians
-  dinosaurs
-  salamanders





## Where's the Egg?

Color the correct set of tracks to help the dinosaur find the egg.

