

Get to Know Dinosaurs

What Were Meat-eating Dinosaurs?

Meat-eating dinosaurs were **carnivores** that hunted other animals for food. The meat-eaters had long, strong legs so that they could run fast in order to catch their prey. They also had strong jaws, and sharp teeth and claws to kill and tear apart their catch.

Meat-eating dinosaurs had different ways of hunting. Some carnivores hunted alone while others hunted in groups, called packs. Some were scavengers. They ate the meat that was left over from another's kill.

All together, meat-eating dinosaurs made up only 35 percent of the entire dinosaur population. The smaller number of meat-eaters balanced out the food chain. If there were more meat-eaters than plant-eaters, there would not have been enough food and the meat-eaters would have most likely starved.

1. Meat-eating dinosaurs were _____.

-  A vegetarians
-  B carnivores
-  C herbivores
-  D omnivores

2. Carnivores made up _____ of the entire dinosaur population.

-  A 75 percent
-  B 35 billion
-  C 35 million
-  D 35 percent



What Were Plant-eating Dinosaurs?

Plant-eating dinosaurs were **herbivores** that ate only plants. Plant-eaters had many features on their bodies that helped them eat. Some had blunt snouts, or beaks, for stripping leaves and twigs from plants. Others had blunt teeth for chewing and grinding their food. Many had pouches in their cheeks in which they stored food before eating it. Plus some plant-eaters swallowed rocks, called **gastroliths**, to help them digest their food. Some herbivores also had thumb spikes that they could have used for defense or for gathering food.

Plant-eating dinosaurs could have more than one of these features to help them eat. They probably spent most of their time eating to get enough food to survive.

1. Plant-eating dinosaurs are also called _____.

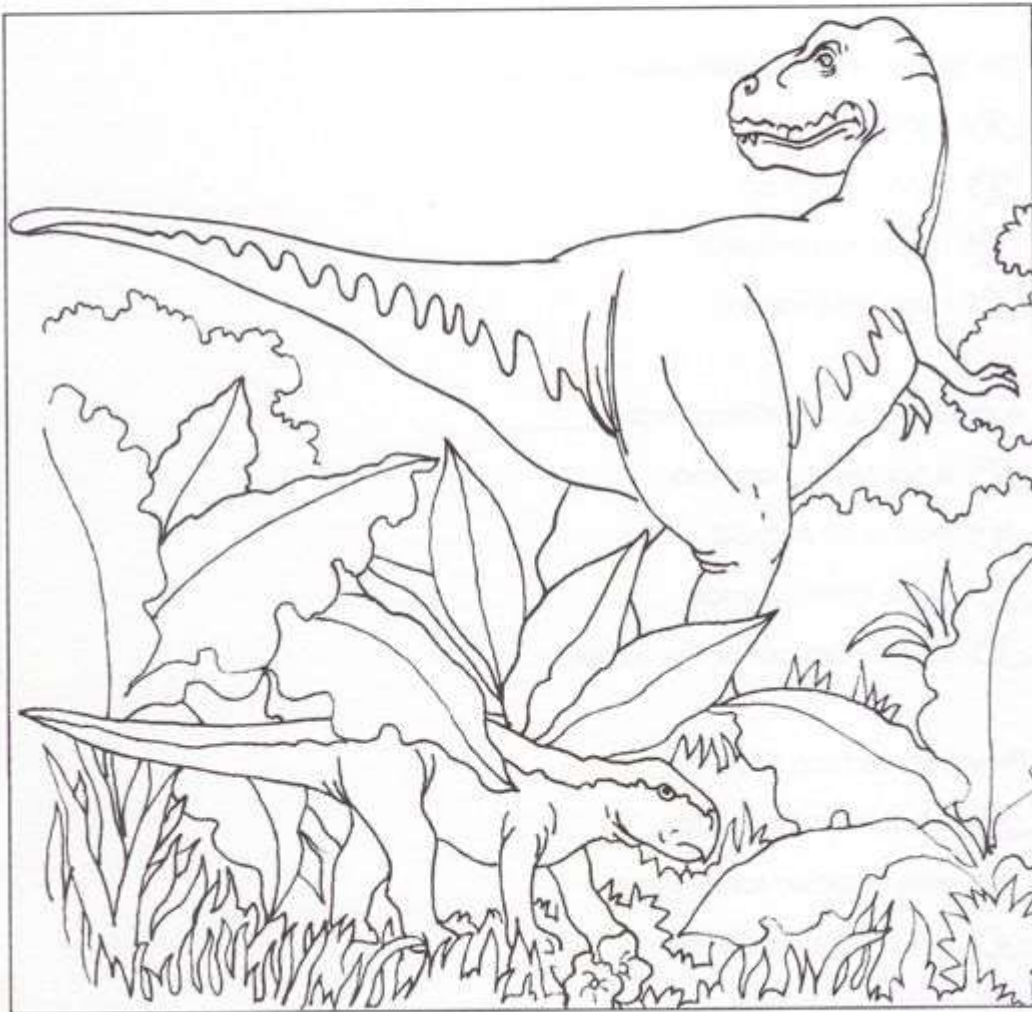
2. What are the rocks called that some herbivores swallowed? Why did they swallow the rocks?

3. Why did some plant-eaters have cheek pouches?

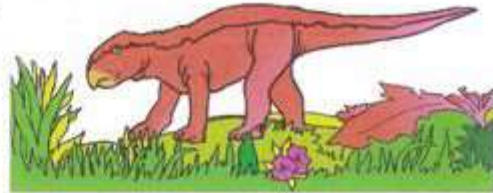


What Is Happening?

Tarbosaurus is looking for food. What is Psittacosaurus doing? What do you think will happen next? Color the picture below, then write a story about this picture on the next page.



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Volcano!

Follow the maze to help the dinosaur get away from the volcano!

