

Dinosaurs Timeline for Kids

252 million to 66 million years ago

Dinosaurs lived on Earth for a very long time. They were here for about 165 million years. This timeline shows when they first appeared, when the biggest ones lived, and how their time ended.



252 million years ago

A Great Die-Off

Long before the dinosaurs, most animals on Earth died out. Scientists call it the Great Dying.

Why it matters: With so many animals gone, there was room for new kinds of animals to grow.



About 230 million years ago

The First Dinosaurs

The first dinosaurs appear. They are small and quick. Many are no bigger than a dog, and they run on two legs.

Why it matters: These small animals were the start of every dinosaur that came later.



About 155 million years ago

The Giants

Huge plant-eaters with long necks walk the Earth. Brachiosaurus was as tall as a four-story building. Stegosaurus, with plates on its back, lives at this time too.

Why it matters: These were some of the biggest animals that ever lived on land.



About 150 million years ago

The First Birds

A small animal called Archaeopteryx has feathers and wings like a bird. It also has teeth and a long tail like a dinosaur.

Why it matters: It shows that birds came from dinosaurs. The birds you see today are living dinosaurs.

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68 million years ago

T. rex and Triceratops

Tyrannosaurus rex hunts in what is now North America. Triceratops, with three horns, lives in the same place.

Why it matters: These are two of the last dinosaurs, and two of the most famous.

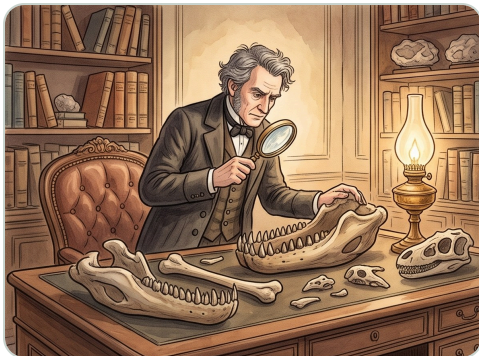


66 million years ago

The Asteroid

A giant rock from space hits the Earth near Mexico. Dust fills the sky and blocks the sun. Plants die, and then the animals that eat them.

Why it matters: All the dinosaurs die out except the birds. After that, mammals begin to grow bigger.



1842

Dinosaurs Get Their Name

A scientist named Richard Owen studies big fossil bones. He names the animals dinosaurs. The word means terrible lizard.

Why it matters: People now knew that giant animals lived long ago, and they began to hunt for more fossils.

Words to know

fossil: what is left of a plant or animal from long ago, turned to stone

extinct: when every animal of one kind has died

asteroid: a big rock that travels through space

plant-eater: an animal that eats only plants

mammal: an animal with fur or hair that feeds milk to its babies