

Stegosaurus

Overview

The Stegosaurus is one of the most recognizable dinosaurs, known for its distinctive upright plates along its back and spikes on its tail. It lived during the Late Jurassic period, approximately 155 to 150 million years ago. Fossils have been found in western North America, Portugal and China. According to [Wikipedia](#), Its diet primarily consisted of ~~meat~~ low-growing plants, such as ferns and cycads.

Taxonomy

- **Kingdom:** *Animalia*
- **Phylum:** *Chordata*
- **Class:** *Reptilia*
- **Order:** *Ornithischia*
- **Family:** *Stegosauridae*
- **Genus:** *Stegosaurus*

Physical Characteristics

The Stegosaurus was a large, heavily built herbivorous dinosaur. Key features include:

Feature	Description
Size	Up to 9 meters (30 feet) in length and 4 meters (13 feet) in height.
Weight	Estimated to be around 5 tonnes.
Plates	The most distinctive feature, with 17 bony plates arranged alternately along its back.
Spikes	Four large spikes on its tail, used for defense against predators.

Fossil Discoveries

The first Stegosaurus fossils were discovered in 1877 by Othniel Charles Marsh during the Bone Wars. Since then, numerous fossils have been found, providing valuable insights into the dinosaur's anatomy and behavior.^[1]

Cultural Impact

General Observations

The Stegosaurus has had a significant impact on popular culture, appearing in numerous films, books, and toys. Its unique appearance has made it a favorite among dinosaur enthusiasts.

Personal Testimony

"I just loooooove Stegosaurus!" (*an unnamed dinosaur enthusiast*)

Conclusions

1. The Stegosaurus remains one of the most fascinating dinosaurs, with its unique plates and spikes capturing the imagination of scientists and the public alike.
2. Ongoing research continues to uncover new details about its biology and behavior.
 - A focal point of this research is pigmentation.
 - Stegosaurus mating behaviour has given rise to some controversy in recent years.

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- ☐ learn more about Stegosaurus
 - ☐ get a Stegosaurus plushie
 - ☐ read [this book](#)
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1. Marsh, O. C. (1877). Notice of new dinosaurian reptiles from the Jurassic formation. American Journal of Science, 14(81), 514-516. ↩