

MAIN TEXT

Barosaurus and *Allosaurus* [need an exciting title, but haven't got it yet]

This encounter of giants might have taken place someplace in Utah or Wyoming about 140 million years ago. Attacked by a carnivorous *Allosaurus*, a mother *Barosaurus* rears up to protect her baby, who moves to hide behind her enormous body. The *Allosaurus* is a relative of the equally fearsome *Tyrannosaurus rex*, while the *Barosaurus* belongs to a family of immense plant-eaters, the sauropods, the biggest creatures ever to have roamed the earth.

These dinosaurs have been cast from real fossils in the museum's collection. Light-weight casts make it possible to mount large animals in the active poses they may have taken in real life, such as this *Barosaurus* about to use her formidable weight to crush a threatening predator. Since real fossils are made of stone, just one of the fossilized bones that make up her neck can weigh over five hundred pounds.

The American Museum of Natural History has the largest collection of real fossils of dinosaurs, mammals, and other vertebrates in the world. Come visit the museum's fourth floor and find out how scientists use the fossils of these amazing animals to ask and answer questions about the past.

GURCHE ILLUSTRATION LABEL

Artist's conception of the scene above. Illustrations such as this are based on information from fossils and comparisons with living reptiles. While fossils tell us about the size and shape of extinct animals, they don't tell us about the colors of dinosaurs or the function of particular features such as the *Barosaurus's* clawed thumbs. Behavior in particular doesn't leave traces for us to study, so whether these creatures ever looked and behaved exactly as shown here, may never be known.

QUARRY MAP LABEL

Quarry map showing how the bones of the adult *Barosaurus* were found jumbled together with the bones of other extinct animals at Howe Quarry in western Wyoming. [add a bit more info. on who found the *Barosaurus* bones -- AMNH scientists? -- and when, and how scientists assemble such a jigsaw puzzle]