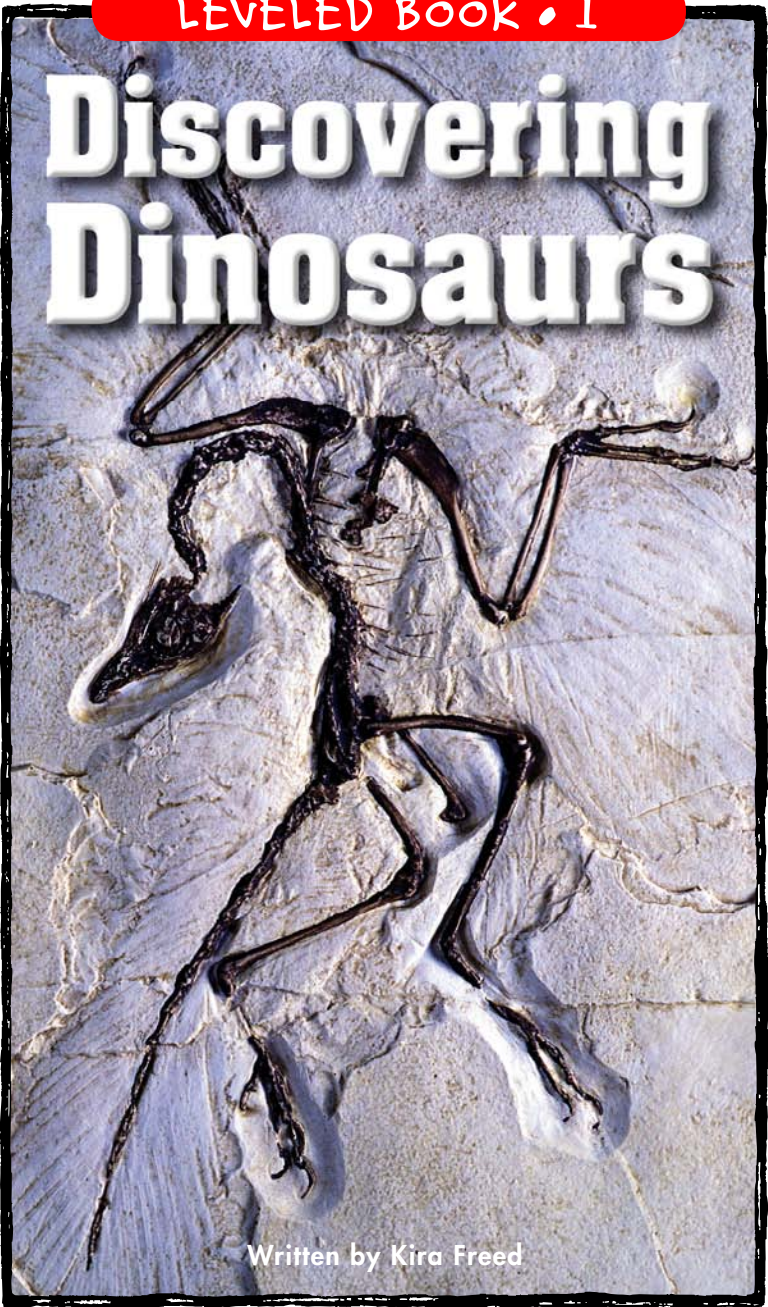


LEVELED BOOK • I

# Discovering Dinosaurs



Written by Kira Freed

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

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Many fossils are on display in museums.

## **Finding Fossils**

How do we know dinosaurs lived on Earth?

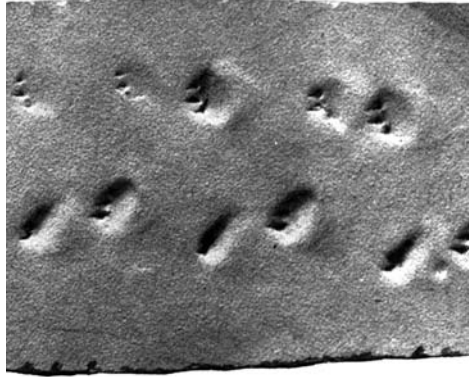
We know because we have found **fossils** in rocks all over the world.



**Scientists** have found fossils of dinosaur bones, footprints, teeth, nests, and eggs.



tooth



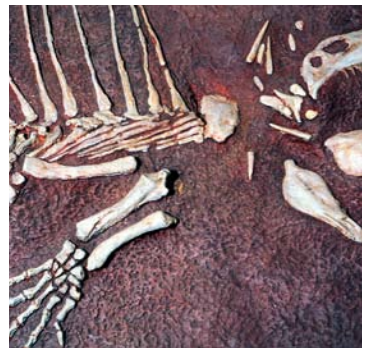
footprints



bone



egg

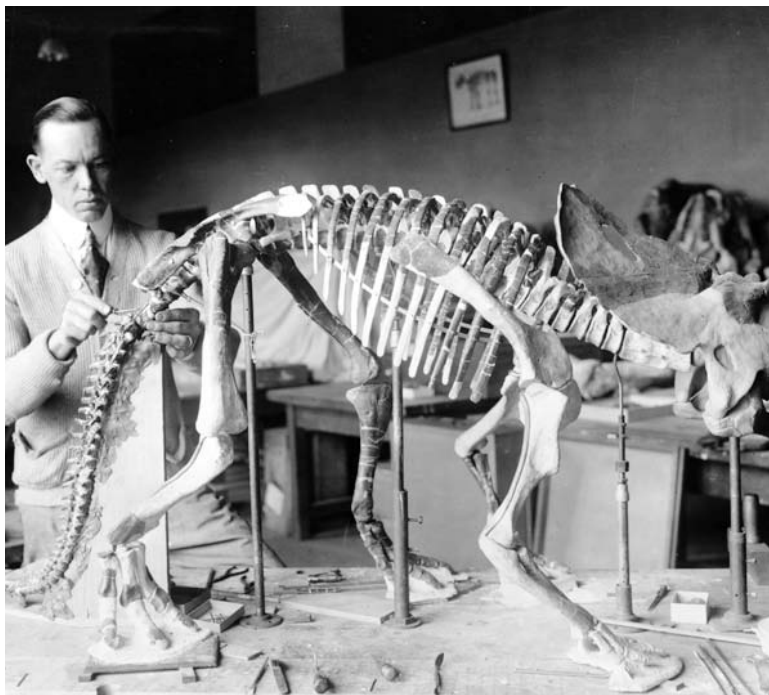


skeleton

These scientists are carefully digging dinosaur fossils out of the ground. They will wrap up the fossils to keep them safe. Then they will take them to a **museum**.



Scientists clear dirt and rock away from a leg bone fossil.



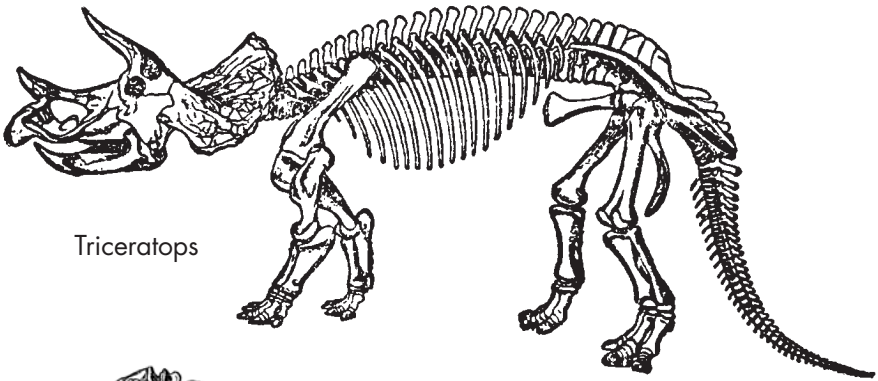
A scientist fits Triceratops bone fossils together.

At the museum, scientists will study the fossils.

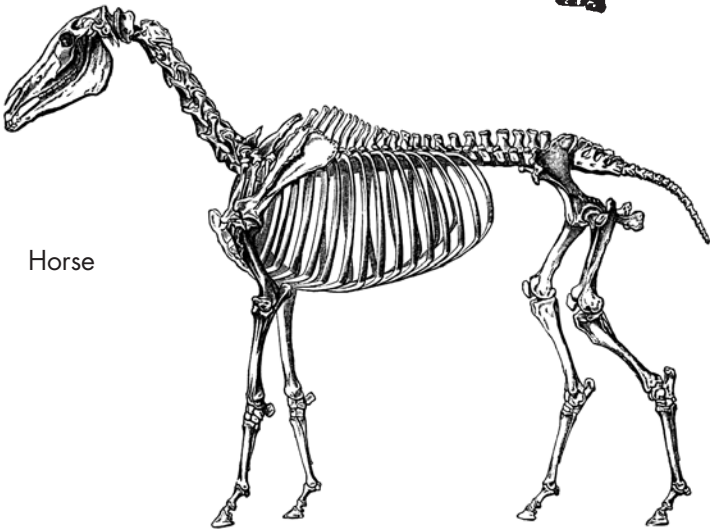
They try to fit bone fossils together to make a **skeleton**.

Some pieces of the skeleton might be missing.

Scientists use what they know about other animals to make pieces fit.



Triceratops



Horse

In some ways Triceratops (top) and horse skeletons look the same.

## **Learning From Fossils**

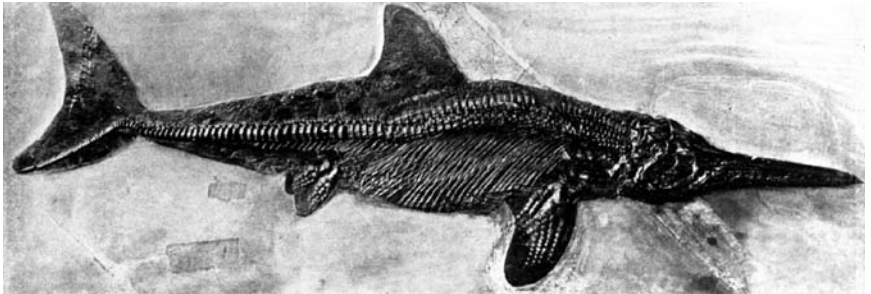
Scientists study other animals  
to learn about dinosaurs.

Dinosaur bones may be bigger.

But many are shaped the same.



Scientists compare dinosaur bone fossils to other animals.  
They learn that some dinosaurs walked, some swam, and some flew.



swimming dinosaur



flying dinosaur

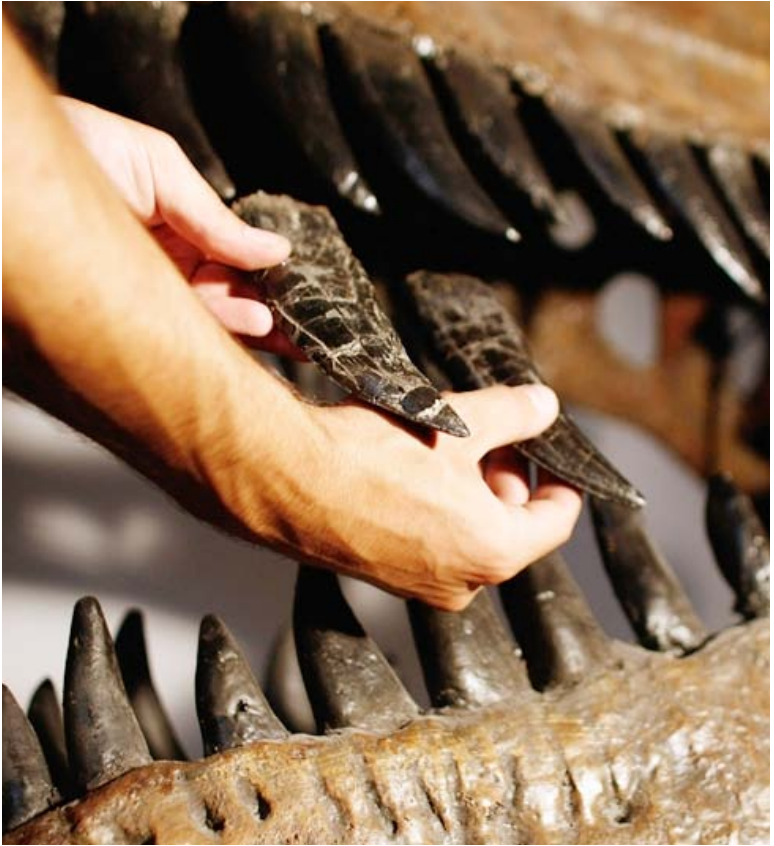


walking dinosaur

Scientists study fossil footprints  
to see how fast dinosaurs moved.  
Some dinosaurs moved very slowly.  
Some moved faster than humans.



Can you see the two sets of fossil footprints?



The sharp teeth of a meat-eating dinosaur

Scientists study fossil teeth to learn what dinosaurs ate.

Some teeth are sharp like the teeth of meat eaters.

Other teeth are flat like the teeth of plant eaters.

Scientists learn about dinosaur babies from fossil nests and eggs. Some dinosaurs may have sat on their eggs like many birds do.

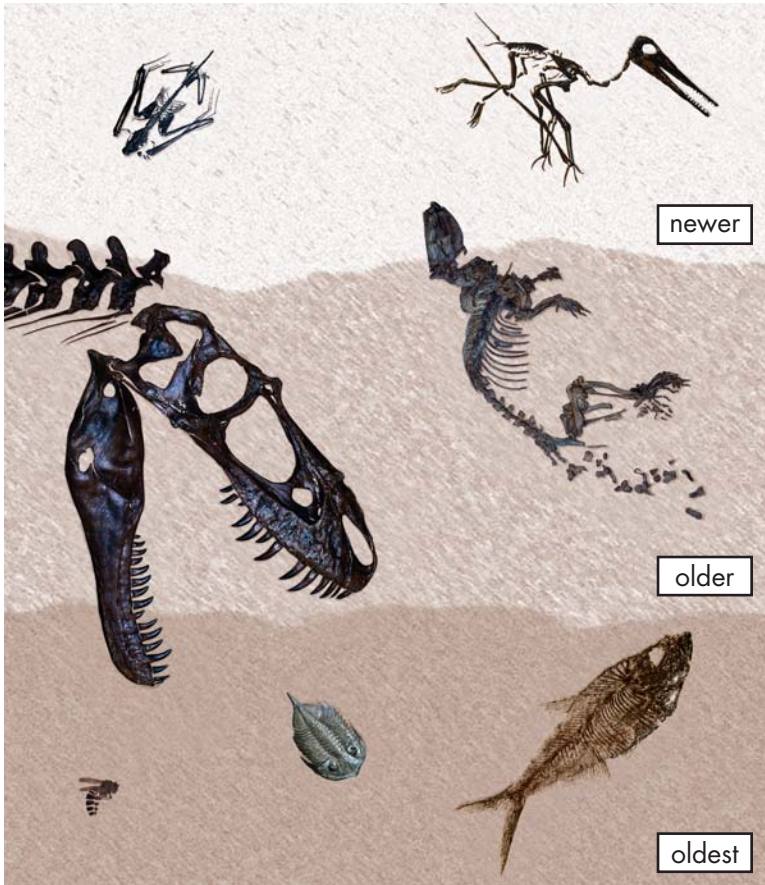


A fossil nest with dinosaur eggs





Scientists also find fossils of plants, fish, insects, and other animals. These fossils help them learn what Earth was like when dinosaurs lived here.



Layers of rock show where dinosaur fossils are found.

## **How Long Ago?**

Scientists study rocks where fossils are found.

Older fossils are deeper in the ground than newer fossils.

No one knows for sure why the dinosaurs disappeared millions of years ago.



Footprints of a large three-toed dinosaur

## **Glossary**

- fossils** (*n.*) parts of living things from long ago that turned to stone over time (p. 4)
- museum** (*n.*) place used to store and show objects important to history, science, or art (p. 6)
- scientists** (*n.*) people who are experts in at least one kind of science (p. 5)
- skeleton** (*n.*) all of the bones in a body (p. 7)

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