

Learning Objective: To answer comprehension questions **Context:** Non-Fiction Dinosaurs

What were dinosaurs?

The dinosaurs were a group of prehistoric reptiles that lived on Earth for over 160 million years. They ranged in size from small to enormous. Huge prehistoric creatures also flew overhead and swam in the seas. Some dinosaurs walked or ran on two legs, others moved around on all fours. Some had long horns, others had a row of pointed plates sticking up from their backs. Many of them had a beak similar to the beaks of birds today.

What were dinosaurs?

Name a feature that some dinosaurs had:

What does the word dinosaur mean?

If you study dinosaurs, what are you called?

Did you know?

- ❖ The word dinosaur means terrible or powerful lizard.
- ❖ Most dinosaurs had eyes on the sides of their heads. This gave them good side vision, but meant they weren't good at judging distances
- ❖ Scientists who study dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures are called palaeontologists

When were dinosaurs alive?

Life had been on Earth for at least 3,260 million years before the dinosaurs evolved. Dinosaurs first appeared about 230 million years ago during a time in history called the Mesozoic Era. The Mesozoic Era is divided into three periods - the Triassic, the Jurassic and the Cretaceous periods. They appeared towards the end of the Triassic period and survived until a sudden extinction at the end of the Cretaceous period.

How many years ago did the dinosaurs appear?

Name the three periods that the Mesozoic Era is split into.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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