

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	TIME (Million Years Ago)	CENOZOIC	MESOZOIC	PALEOZOIC	PRECAMBRIAN
			0	HOLOCENE		PERMIAN	HADEAN EON
			2	PLEISTOCENE		225	
			12	PLIOCENE		280	
			26	MIOCENE		345	
			37	OLIGOCENE		395	
			53	EOCENE		430	
			65	PALEOCENE		500	
					JURASSIC	570	
					TRIASSIC		
							CAMBRIAN
							ORDOVICIAN
							SILURIAN
							DEVONIAN
							CARBONIFEROUS
							PROTEROZOIC EON
							ACHEAN EON
							4,600

MEET THE STEGOSAURUS!

("Roofed Lizard in Greek")



Decked with 17 broad bony plates called scutes (+/- 60cm (2ft) tall and 60cm (2ft) wide for the largest) from its neck to the tail which were part of its skin. They were mostly used for thermoregulation.

Huge ribcage hangs from spine. Herbivorous with diet of ferns, low shrubs, mosses, cycads, fruits and conifers. Ate rocks to grind its food like birds do.

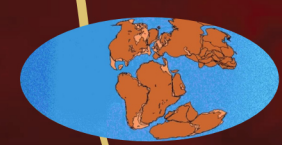
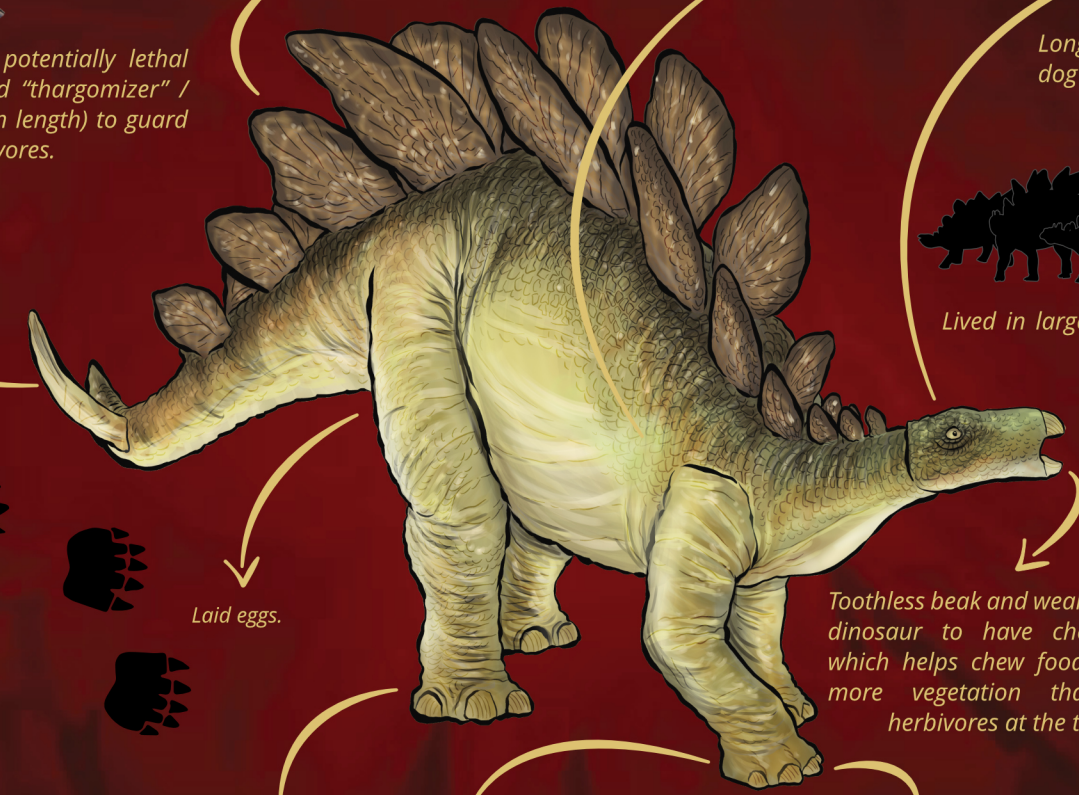


Long stiff tail with four potentially lethal dermal spikes (nicknamed "thagomizer" / 60cm (2ft) to 90cm (3ft) in length) to guard against carnivores.

Long and narrow head with tiny brain the size of a dog but sufficiently clever to survive millions of years in such a tough environment.



Lived in large herds for better protection with an unknown social system.



Roamed the plains and woodlands of North America, Europe, Africa and China during the late Jurassic period, 155-144 million years ago.

Laid eggs.



Hind legs longer than front legs to nibble the plants closest to the ground.

Toothless beak and weak jaw. First dinosaur to have cheek teeth which helps chew food and eat more vegetation than other herbivores at the time.



Length: 9 meters (30ft)
Height: 4 meters (14ft)
Weight: 2 to 5 metric tons
Speed: 7kph (5mph)

Discovered in 1877 in Colorado, USA, by Othniel Marsh who found 135 other dinosaurs including the Triceratops and the Diplodocus. Cousin of the Ankylosaurus, it lived during the same time period of Diplodocus and Brachiosaurus. It never met any Tyrannosaurus Rex, as they only appeared 80 million years later, but it had to defend itself from Allosaurus and Ceratosaurus. It is the official state dinosaur of the US state of Colorado