

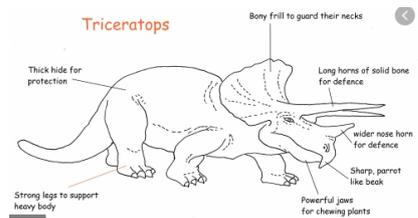
Triceratops

Dinosaurs were animals, similar to lizards today, that lived millions of years ago. Unfortunately, they are now all extinct but one of these amazing animals was the Triceratops.

What did Triceratops look like?

The incredible Triceratops was easy to spot amongst other dinosaurs. They had three horns on their heads and a large frill around their necks. The top two horns were used for defending against attacks and the third horn was smaller and could be found on their nose. As well as having horns to defend themselves, the Triceratops had thick skin to prevent injury if they were bitten.

The skin was quite dull in colour and it is thought that they may have had stripes like a tiger. This huge animal could grow as large as 9 metres and weighed about 5 tonnes – the same as a large truck. Its strong, thick legs helped it to move its large body.



What did they eat?

Gentle giants like Triceratops would not have eaten meat. Instead they were herbivores which meant they ate trees, plants and leaves which grew in the forests around them. However, they were often prey for other meat eating dinosaurs so their horns and skin were very important to protect them. They had a beak-like mouth and powerful jaws to help them to chew the woody plants.

Where did they live?

Triceratops bones and fossils have been found in North America where the climate was warm and dry. They lived in forests because this is where their food was to help them to survive. It is thought that they lived between 68-65 million years ago.

Finally, this prehistoric monster is no longer alive today. It is not known what killed all the dinosaurs – some people believe a large meteor hit the earth, others think it was a volcanic eruption. But one thing to be certain about you won't find one alive if you visit the woods today!