

The Need to Read

You are born knowing how to breathe, but you are not born knowing how to read.

Everyone can learn to read. Reading is one of the most important skills that you can acquire in your lifetime. Reading is an ongoing skill that takes time and practice. When you were very young, you ‘copied the sound of words and understood the meaning by hearing your family speak. One of the happiest days in your parents life was when you said your first ‘word’. (*Ma-ma, Da-da*)

You looked at picture books. You could ‘read’ the pictures and understand what was happening in the pictures. You learned your ABCs and the sounds that the letters made. You began to recognize ‘sight words’. You were beginning to READ!

Some people really like to read because they find it easy to read. Some people find that reading is hard work. Reading is an essential tool in life. You will need to learn to use the ‘tools’ of reading because you will be confronted with that need to read more and more as you grow older.

There are many different types of reading experiences. Public signs that say ‘stop’, ‘hot’, ‘exit’, and ‘no swimming’ tell you information about your surroundings. Words on food labels tell you what is in the food. Recipes tell you how to make cookies. It is so important for you to be able to read, understand, and carefully follow ‘instructional’ words that tell you what to do on a worksheet at school. (“Circle the animals in the picture that can fly”.

Your Letter Stories A-Z have been written especially for you to have fun while you are learning to read.

It is fun to tell someone about something you have learned. Millions of people that lived before you have learned that ‘a squirrel buries his nuts and can find them later’. But when you learn something new for the first time, it is like it is the first time ‘anyone’ has known that ‘a squirrel buries his nuts and can find them later’!

Before the Quagga fiction story, we talked about ‘genres’, different ways to tell a story.

Your Letter T story will be a Non-Fiction reading. You will read facts about the Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur! Maybe you already know something about this awesome animal. We think you will also learn something new to tell your family or your best friend.

A “giant” number of Letter ‘T,t’ to find, too – 224! Have fun!



The Terrible Tyrannosaurus Rex!

How Do We Know About the T-Rex?

Information has come to us from ‘fossils’, parts of ancient dead animals or plants left behind. Fossils are found buried in mud or sand that turns to rock. Sometimes, the fossil is ‘petrified’ (rock has replaced parts of the animal or plant). Examples of dinosaur fossils can be bones, teeth, claws, spikes, horns, bony plates, eggs, *dung* (poop), and rarely, footprints or imprints of skin. People who study animal or plant fossils are called *paleontologists*.

Who Found the First T-Rex?

Barnum Brown, (“Mr. Bones”), a paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History in New York discovered the first fossil pieces of a new dinosaur in Montana, USA, in 1902. They named ‘it’ Tyrannosaurus Rex, the “king of the tyrant lizards”.

How Was He So Terrible?

T-Rex was the ‘bully’ of the dinosaur playground. The powerful hind legs and tail, claws, massive jaws, and ‘serrated’ (sawlike) teeth of this predator made him the ‘alpha carnivore’ of the late Jurassic world of big reptiles. Also, weighing 16,000 pounds (8 tons) was helpful, too! With cone-shaped teeth and strong jaws that had a ‘bite pressure’ of 12,814 pounds, **T-Rex** had no problem crushing through solid bone.

When and Where Did He Live?

Dinosaur fossils have been found all over the world. **T-Rex** remains have been found mostly in Western North America. Fossil information tells us that the **T-Rex** lived in ancient prehistory – a time before people.

What Did He Eat?

Anything he wanted! **T-Rex** preyed on giant, gentle herbivores, like the **Triceratops**, who thrived in the lush, green, tropical habitat of the late *Jurassic* age of the dinosaurs. He often scavenged off the kill of others, scattering them with his ferocious appearance on the ‘kill’ scene. What tried to eat him? Nothing. They died naturally of old age, disease, and injuries from fights with other **Tyrannosaurus Rex**’s competing for food.

Who Can See a Dinosaur?

Nobody ever saw a T-Rex. (Media entertainment does a great job of showing these fierce ‘terrorists’ of long ago). But, our images of dinosaurs are due to the experts who piece together fossils like a jigsaw 3D puzzle to determine the skeletal likeness of specific types. These scientists recreate an educated model of the skin, scales, color, texture, habitats, and behaviors of the different dinosaurs we see in pictures today.

What Happened to the T-Rex?

Like most reasons for the extinction of a species, events changed the habitat of the dinosaur’s humid, tropical forests. Scientists say that volcanic activity, disease, climate variations, a meteor crashing to earth, or a combination of all these disasters could have caused the destruction of the late Jurassic ecosystem. Herbivores decreased and predators were left without food. The dinosaurs went *extinct*.

Who is Sue?

More than 50 partial or complete T-Rex skeletons have been discovered. The most complete set of bones of an adult T-Rex (90% recovered) were

found by Sue Hendrickson, Fossil Hunter, on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in North Dakota, USA, in 1990.

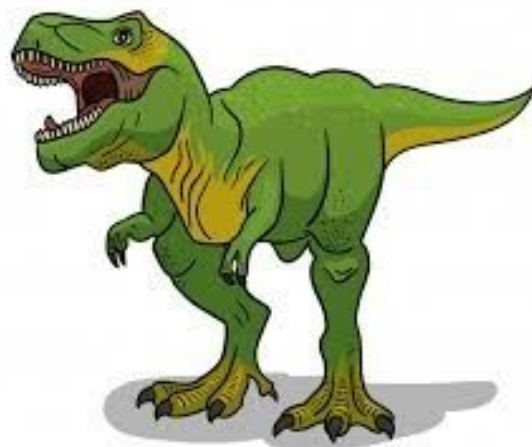
Other T-Rex You Can Know

Stan. Found, 1987. Buffalo, South Dakota. 70% complete. **Scotty**. Found, 1991. Saskatchewan, Canada. 70% complete. **Bucky**. Found, 1998. Faith, South Dakota. 'Almost complete'. **Baby Jane**. Found, 2001. Montana. Fully restored. **Baby Bob**. Found, 2013. Jordan, Montana. 75% complete.

Why Do We LOVE Dinosaurs So Much?!

They were big, fierce, mysterious, and real creatures of another world long ago. The wonder of these *gargantuan* animals fills us with awe and fear. We can dream, pretend, play, and fear them in the safety of our imagination.

THE END



Did You Know?

- T-Rex stood 15 to 20 feet tall
- T-Rex was 40 feet long - the same as a school bus
- They had 50 to 60 cone-shaped teeth. They were up to 12-inches long (about the size of a banana).
- Its massive skull was 5-feet long with powerful 4-foot long jaws
- It could *chomp* off 500 pounds of meat with just one bite! T-Rex had a bite more powerful than 3 lions.
- T-Rex had tiny front arms. They only measured about 3-feet long.
- This dino traveled at only 10 to 15 miles-per-hour
- T-Rex had a lifespan of about 30 years.



T-Rex True/False Quiz

1. Fossils are parts of dead animals and plants from long ago.
2. Paleontologists study fossils.
3. The first T-Rex fossil was found by Barnum Brown.
4. A 'carnivore' eats plants.
5. A 'triceratops' is a kind of dinosaur.
6. Dinosaurs are extinct.
7. The T-Rex had very long front arms.
8. The T-Rex had only 20 sharp teeth shaped like cones.
9. A 'scavenger' steals the food from other animals.
10. I love to study about DINOSAURS!

Color T-Rex





Draw the T-Rex

Color the Library and Visitors

