



DILOPHOSAURUS



DATE

About 193 million years ago



LOCATION

Arizona, United States



A swift, large predator with two elegant crests, *Dilophosaurus* hunted along the rivers and floodplains of Early Jurassic North America.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 6–7 meters long
- Walked on two powerful hind legs
- Possessed two thin skull crests



WHY IT MATTERS

One of the earliest large predatory dinosaurs in North America.



INTERESTING FACT

There is no evidence that it spat venom or possessed a folding neck frill.





CRYOLOPHOSAURUS



DATE

About 194–188 million years ago



LOCATION

Antarctica



Cryolophosaurus prowled a forested Antarctica long before the continent became buried beneath a permanent ice sheet.



KEY FACTS

- Large meat-eating theropod
- Carried a curved crest across its head
- Discovered high in Antarctica's mountains



WHY IT MATTERS

It proves that large predatory dinosaurs inhabited the ancient polar regions.



INTERESTING FACT

Its distinctive crest inspired the nickname 'Elvisaurus.'





COELOPHYSIS? KAYENTAKATAE



DATE

About 200–183 million years ago



LOCATION

Arizona, United States



This lightly built, crested hunter shared the Kayenta landscape with the much larger *Dilophosaurus*.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 2.5–3 meters long
- Slender body built for speed
- Had a small skull crest



WHY IT MATTERS

It reveals the diversity of small Early Jurassic predatory dinosaurs.



INTERESTING FACT

Scientists still debate whether it belongs in *Coelophysis*, *Megapnosaurus*, or a separate genus.



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EARLY JURASSIC



MASSOSPONDYLUS



DATE

About 200–183 million years ago



LOCATION

South Africa, Lesotho and Zimbabwe



Long-necked *Massospondylus* represented an early stage in the evolution of the giant sauropods.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 4–6 meters long
- Ate primarily vegetation
- Could probably move on two or four legs



WHY IT MATTERS

It shows how small early sauropodomorphs developed into enormous four-legged sauropods.



INTERESTING FACT

Fossil embryos reveal that its hatchlings initially walked on four legs.



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SCELIDOSAURUS



DATE

About 193–191 million years ago



LOCATION

England



Rows of bony armor protected this sturdy plant eater as it moved through Early Jurassic coastal landscapes.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately four meters long
- Covered with bony plates and knobs
- Walked primarily on four legs



WHY IT MATTERS

It was one of the earliest well-known armored dinosaurs.



INTERESTING FACT

Complete skeletons reveal the arrangement of its armor in remarkable detail.



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EARLY JURASSIC



VULCANODON



DATE

About 201–190 million years ago



LOCATION

Zimbabwe



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 6–7 meters long
- Four-legged herbivore
- Had more robust limbs than earlier sauropodomorphs



WHY IT MATTERS

It documents the transition toward the giant sauropods of the later Jurassic.



INTERESTING FACT

Its fossils were discovered in sandstone lying between ancient lava flows.



Vulcanodon was an early sauropod with strong, column-like legs supporting its increasingly heavy body.



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EARLY JURASSIC



LUFENGOSAURUS



DATE

About 190–174 million years ago



LOCATION

Yunnan, China



This long-necked herbivore became one of the most important dinosaurs in the early history of Chinese paleontology.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately six meters long
- Early sauropodomorph
- Known from numerous skeletons



WHY IT MATTERS

It provides important evidence about dinosaur evolution in Early Jurassic Asia.



INTERESTING FACT

Lufengosaurus was the first dinosaur displayed on a Chinese postage stamp.



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MIDDLE JURASSIC



MEGALOSAURUS



DATE

About 168–166 million years ago



LOCATION

England



A powerful predator, *Megalosaurus* hunted across the islands and coastal environments of Middle Jurassic Britain.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately six meters long
- Possessed large, serrated teeth
- Walked on two powerful legs



WHY IT MATTERS

In 1824, it became the first non-avian dinosaur to be scientifically named.



INTERESTING FACT

Early artists mistakenly reconstructed it as an enormous four-legged lizard.



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