



KENTROSAURUS



DATE

About 152–150 million years ago



LOCATION

Tanzania



Long spikes armed the back half of this African stegosaur, creating a formidable defense.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 4–5 meters long
- Plates covered the front of its back
- Long spikes protected its hips and tail



WHY IT MATTERS

It shows that stegosaurs developed dramatically different armor arrangements.



INTERESTING FACT

Hundreds of its bones were recovered from Tanzania's Tendaguru Formation.





COMPSOGNATHUS



DATE

About 150 million years ago



LOCATION

Germany and France



KEY FACTS

- Approximately one meter long
- Walked on two slender legs
- Fed on small vertebrates



WHY IT MATTERS

It helped scientists recognize that not all dinosaurs were enormous.



INTERESTING FACT

Fossilized stomach contents include the remains of a small lizard.



This small, agile predator chased lizards and other tiny animals across European islands.



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LATE JURASSIC



ARCHAEOPTERYX



DATE

About 150 million years ago



LOCATION

Bavaria, Germany



Feathered wings combined with teeth, claws and a long bony tail made *Archaeopteryx* an evolutionary mosaic.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately raven-sized
- Possessed flight feathers
- Retained numerous dinosaur features



WHY IT MATTERS

It provides celebrated evidence connecting birds with small theropod dinosaurs.



INTERESTING FACT

The first skeleton was discovered two years after Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*.



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DRYOSAURUS



DATE

About 155–145 million years ago



LOCATION

Western United States



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 3–4 meters long
- Two-legged herbivore
- Long tail provided balance



WHY IT MATTERS

It represents the smaller plant eaters living beneath the giant sauropods.



Lightly built and fast, *Dryosaurus* relied on speed to escape the Jurassic's large predators.



INTERESTING FACT

Its name means 'oak lizard,' although oak trees had not yet evolved.





ORNITHOLESTES



DATE

About 154–150 million years ago



LOCATION

Wyoming, United States



This lightly built predator hunted small animals through the forests and floodplains of Late Jurassic North America.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately two meters long
- Long hind legs and grasping hands
- Small meat-eating theropod



WHY IT MATTERS

It illustrates the diversity of smaller predators in the Morrison ecosystem.



INTERESTING FACT

It is known primarily from a single partial skeleton discovered in 1900.



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LATE JURASSIC



MIRAGAIA



DATE

About 150 million years ago



LOCATION

Portugal



Miragaia was an unusual European stegosaur distinguished by its exceptionally long neck.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 6–7 meters long
- Possessed at least 17 neck vertebrae
- Carried plates and defensive tail spikes



WHY IT MATTERS

It shows that stegosaurs evolved more varied body shapes than once believed.



INTERESTING FACT

Miragaia had more neck vertebrae than many sauropod dinosaurs.



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