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MIDDLE JURASSIC



CETIOSAURUS



DATE

About 168–166 million years ago



LOCATION

England



This heavy-bodied sauropod browsed among the forests and floodplains of Middle Jurassic Britain.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 16 meters long
- Four-legged herbivore
- Had a sturdy neck and heavy limbs



WHY IT MATTERS

It was one of the first sauropods known from relatively complete remains.



INTERESTING FACT

Scientists originally thought its enormous bones belonged to a whale-like marine reptile.



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MIDDLE JURASSIC



SHUNOSAURUS



DATE

About 168–161 million years ago



LOCATION

Sichuan, China



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 9–11 meters long
- Plant-eating sauropod
- Tail ended in a spiked bony club



WHY IT MATTERS

Its complete skeletons make it one of the best-understood Middle Jurassic sauropods.



INTERESTING FACT

It is one of the few known sauropods equipped with a tail club.



Unlike most sauropods, *Shunosaurus* carried a defensive weapon at the end of its tail.



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MIDDLE JURASSIC



HUAYANGOSAURUS



DATE

About 165 million years ago



LOCATION

Sichuan, China



Plates, shoulder spines and tail spikes protected this compact early stegosaur from predators.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately four meters long
- Walked on four legs
- Carried plates and several types of spikes



WHY IT MATTERS

It helps explain the early evolution of stegosaurs.



INTERESTING FACT

Its armor included shoulder spines as well as spikes on its tail.



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MIDDLE JURASSIC



MONOLOPHOSAURUS



DATE

About 165 million years ago



LOCATION

Xinjiang, China



This medium-sized predator was distinguished by a single ridge-like crest running along its skull.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 5–6 meters long
- Meat-eating theropod
- Possessed one prominent head crest



WHY IT MATTERS

It reveals the growing diversity of Middle Jurassic predators in Asia.



INTERESTING FACT

Its name means 'single-crested lizard.'



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EUSTREPTOSPONDYLUS



DATE

About 166 million years ago



LOCATION

England



Eustreptospondylus hunted among the islands and shallow coastal waters that covered much of Jurassic Britain.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 5–6 meters long
- Large two-legged carnivore
- Related to other megalosauroid predators



WHY IT MATTERS

It is one of the most complete Middle Jurassic predatory dinosaurs from Europe.



INTERESTING FACT

Its remains may have been carried out to sea before fossilization.





PATAGOSAURUS



DATE

About 179–168 million years ago



LOCATION

Patagonia, Argentina



This large sauropod moved across the floodplains of prehistoric Patagonia in search of vegetation.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 16 meters long
- Heavy four-legged herbivore
- Known from several individuals



WHY IT MATTERS

It is one of the best-known early sauropods from South America.



INTERESTING FACT

Its name means 'Patagonian lizard.'





ALLOSAURUS



DATE

About 155–145 million years ago



LOCATION

Western United States and Portugal



Armed with serrated teeth and clawed hands, *Allosaurus* was one of the dominant predators of the Late Jurassic.



KEY FACTS

- Usually 8–10 meters long
- Had three-clawed hands
- Hunted large herbivorous dinosaurs



WHY IT MATTERS

Numerous skeletons make it one of the best-understood large theropods.



INTERESTING FACT

Some fossils preserve injuries that healed while the animal was still alive.





STEGOSAURUS



DATE

About 155–150 million years ago



LOCATION

Western United States and Portugal



Towering back plates and a spike-armed tail made *Stegosaurus* one of the Jurassic's most distinctive herbivores.



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 7–9 meters long
- Carried two rows of back plates
- Tail bore four defensive spikes



WHY IT MATTERS

It is the best-known example of the plated stegosaur dinosaurs.



INTERESTING FACT

Its tail weapon is informally called a 'thagomizer.'

