

Ambassador Notes

Dinosaur Ambassadors hold selected items and allow other students to touch them. Here is a list of the items so that you can familiarize yourself with their descriptions.

Trilobite

Acastoides were Trilobites with heavy armor plated exoskeletons. They are related to insects and had segmented eyes which gave it the ability to see movement. This early warning system allowed Trilobites to roll their bodies into a defensive ball for protection against potential predators. There are over 1200 different kinds of Trilobites.

Giant Shark Tooth

Megalodon, like modern sharks, did not have bones. Paleontologists are able to estimate their body size by comparing the tooth of Megalodon to the tooth of modern Great White Sharks. Capable of killing and eating an entire whale, Megalodon is regarded as one of the largest and most powerful hunters in the history of earth. It had the strongest bite force of any animal in earth's history. *Heaviest creature in this exhibit.

Allosaurus Toe Bone with Injury

Here we see two toe bones; one is a normal healthy bone, and the other is a bone with a massive infection. The infection slowly deteriorated the bone and spread to other bones of the foot. As the infection moved into the bloodstream, this Allosaurus would have died a slow, painful death. Allosaurus was one of the largest predatory dinosaurs of its time.

Dinosaur Egg with Embryo

Under very rare circumstances, an egg with a fully developed embryo may survive the fossilization process. Here we have an example of an egg with a fully developed skeleton of a juvenile that was discovered in Argentina. Using x-ray images of the baby skeleton, an artist was able to sculpt an exact duplicate of what the baby looked like if it were alive.

Tyrannosaurus Brain

The brain of Tyrannosaurus rex was small, compared to ours. But this dinosaur was not dumb. Its brain shows us that it had excellent vision, a powerful sense of smell, and a relatively good sense of balance. These things combined made T-rex the top predator of its time. This brain replica was made by CT Scanning the brain case of a T-rex, and then making a copy on a 3-D printer. The actual brain decomposed when the dinosaur died.

Baby Apatosaurus Leg Bone

This is the rear, upper leg bone (femur) from a juvenile Apatosaurus. This bone is less than ¼ of the size of an adult leg bone, but was still very thick and heavy. This baby Apatosaurus would have been about 10 feet long and weighed over 500 pounds.

Dinosaur Body Armor

A scute is a thick piece of bone that was embedded in the skin. These scutes acted as body armor and covered the back of the Ankylosaurus. Even the largest carnivores had trouble biting through these scutes. These pieces of bone are also called **Dermal Plates**.

Stegosaurus Tail Spike

Stegosaurus had four large spikes on the end of its tail. These spikes were very heavily built and had a covering of keratin that made them much sharper. When in danger this dinosaur would swing its tail at its attacker with deadly accuracy.

Fossilized Dinosaur Dung

Fossilized dinosaur dung is known as a Coprolite (cop-row-light). Under rare circumstances, the dung of a dinosaur would be buried in sand or dirt and remain undisturbed for millions of years. Over that time the minerals in the ground would slowly take the form and shape of the dung, and be turned to stone.

Mammoth Tooth

The Imperial Mammoth was the largest member of the elephant family that ever roamed North America. These massive elephants did not have the long shaggy hair of their smaller cousins, the Woolly Mammoths, because they lived in a much warmer climate.