

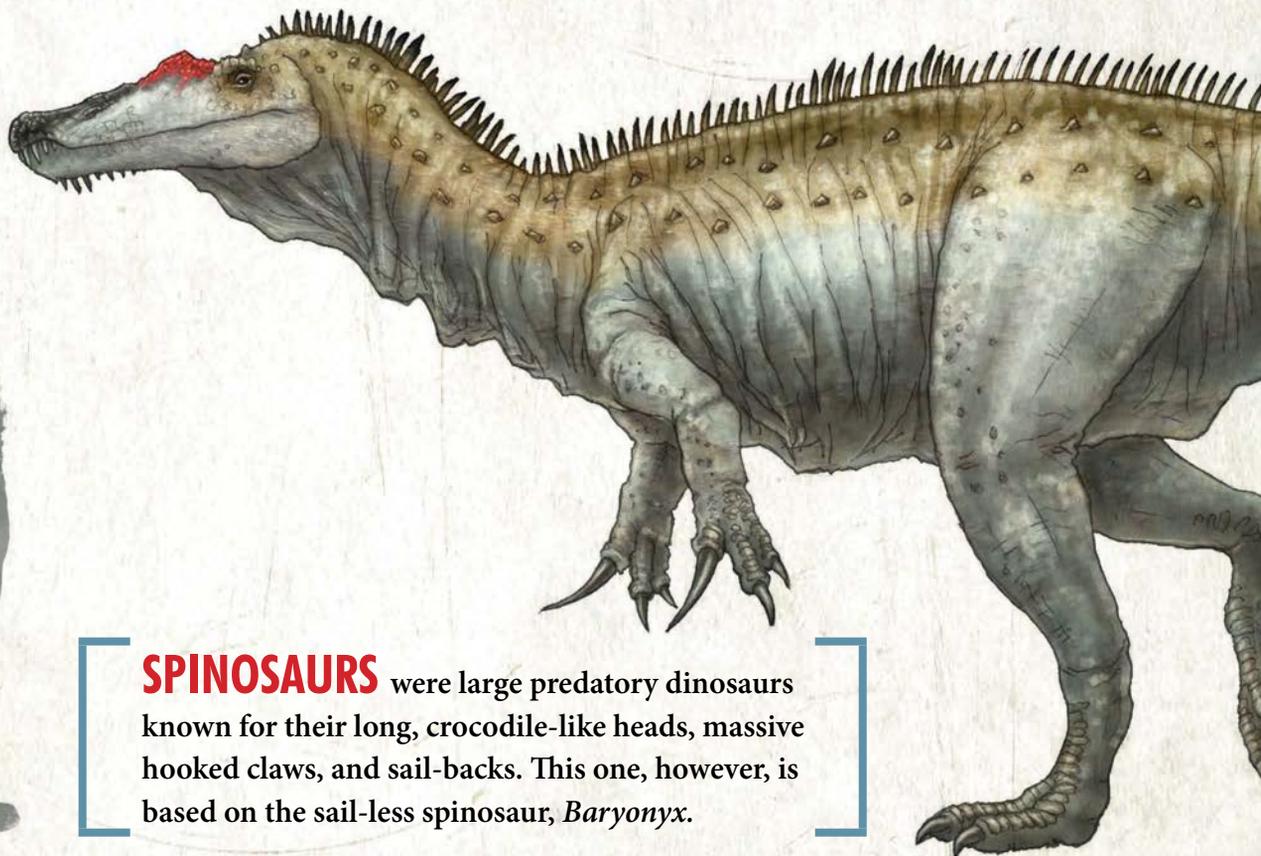
9 The animal kinds zoo!

As you know, there were probably under 1,400 animal kinds on the Ark! Here are some members of just a few of those kinds.



CYNOGNATHIDS

Historically called “mammal-like reptiles,” cynognathids—like this *Cynognathus*—were actually more like mammals than crocodiles or lizards. They are now considered a kind of “non-mammalian synapsid.”



SPINOSAURS were large predatory dinosaurs known for their long, crocodile-like heads, massive hooked claws, and sail-backs. This one, however, is based on the sail-less spinosaur, *Baryonyx*.

ENTELODONTS

Once considered the relatives of pigs, entelodonts were a unique and bizarre animal kind. Known only from pre-Ice Age rock layers, they ranged from two feet tall—such as this *Archaeotherium*—to nearly seven feet tall!

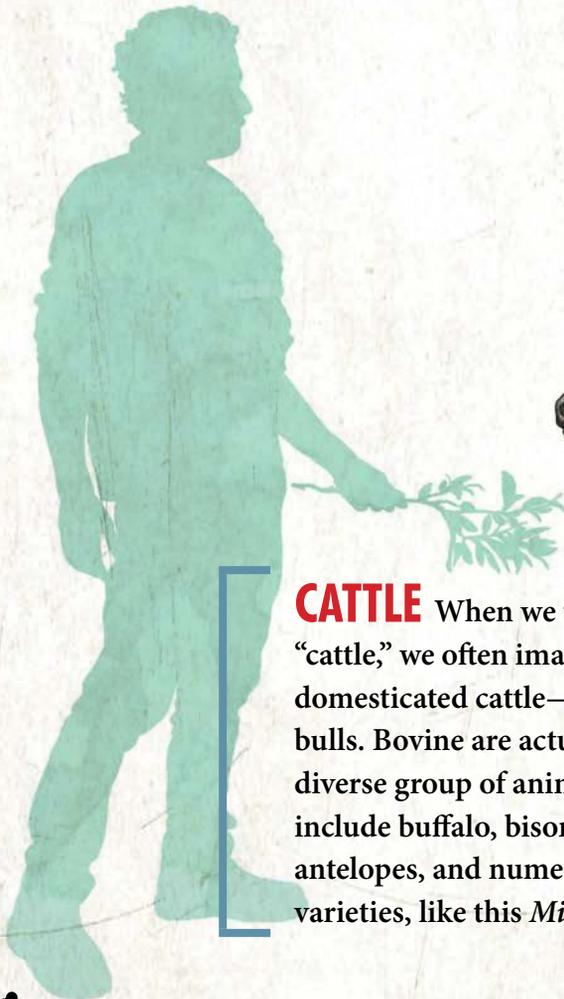


DOGS Long considered “man’s best friend,” not every member of the canid family is like our beloved pets. Various wolves, coyotes, jackals, foxes, and wild dogs are also members of the dog kind. There were numerous extinct forms as well, like borophagines—the bone-crushing dogs—and small civet-like canids, like this *Hesperocyon*.

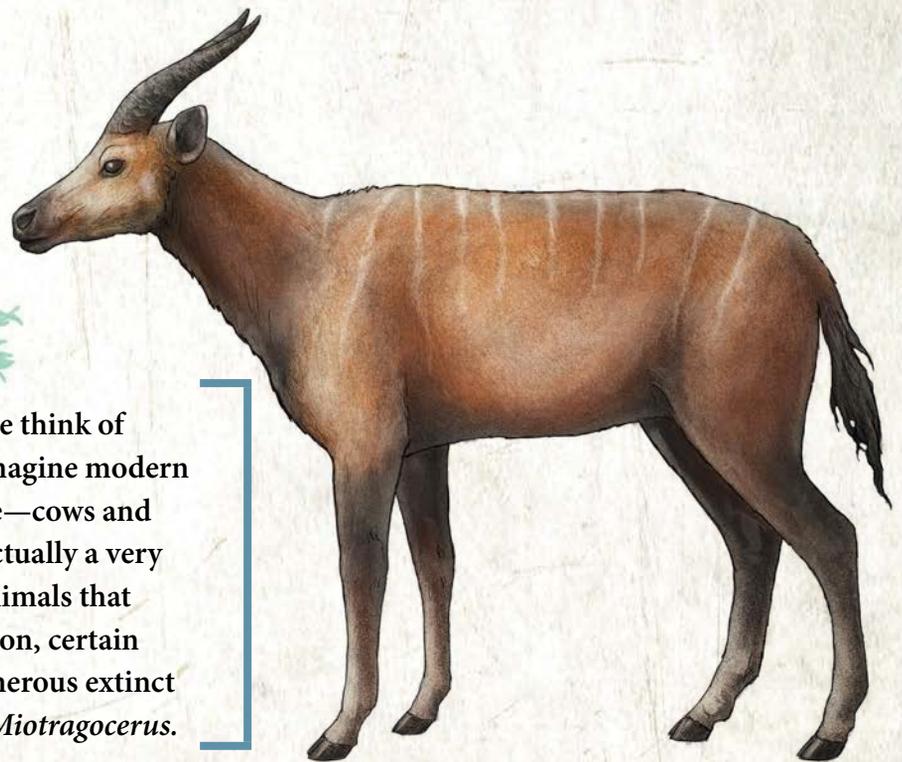




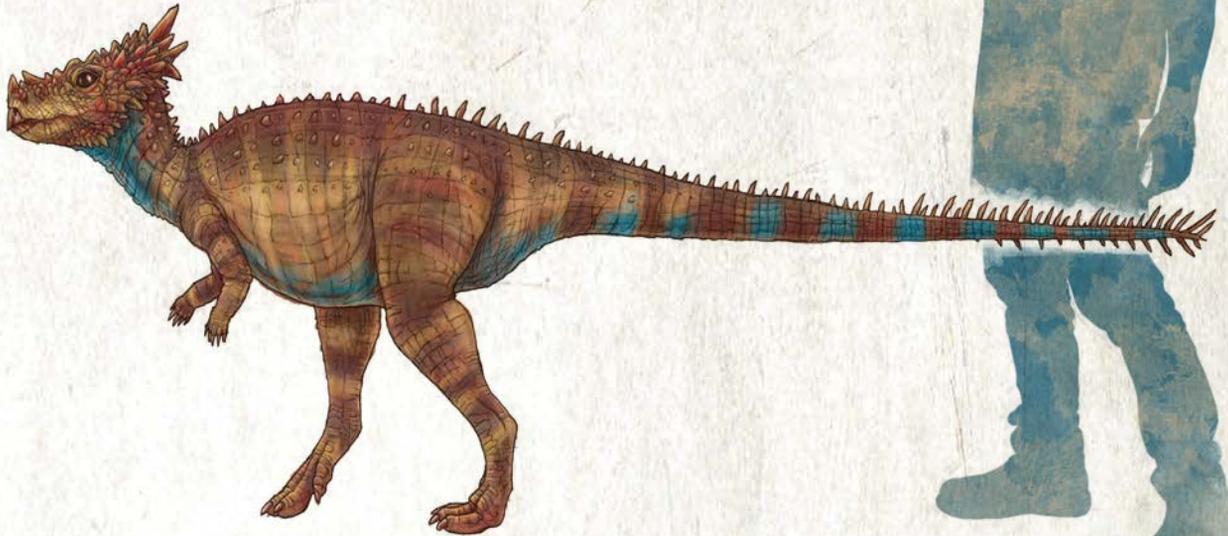
SHEEP The trademark thick woolly coat of domestic sheep is not a wild trait, but was expressed through human breeding practices. These “goat-antelopes” or “tsoan”—goats, sheep, musk oxen, and many extinct forms, like this *Palaeoreas*—are all members of the same kind.



CATTLE When we think of “cattle,” we often imagine modern domesticated cattle—cows and bulls. Bovine are actually a very diverse group of animals that include buffalo, bison, certain antelopes, and numerous extinct varieties, like this *Miotragocerus*.



PACHYCEPHALOSAURS The classic “head-butting dinosaurs,” pachycephalosaurs weren’t born with their thick skull caps. Initially considered a unique species, it turns out that this “*Dracorex hogwartsia*” is probably just a juvenile *Pachycephalosaurius*.



HIPPOPOTAMUSES

Hippo species have come in various sizes and slightly different shapes, but it seems they really haven’t changed much overall since the Flood. This pygmy hippo—*Choeropsis*, or sometimes *Hexaprotodon*—is a living member of the longest-lasting hippo lineage.



PAKICETIDS Popularly touted as whale ancestors, pakicetids were a small family of land-dwelling or semi-aquatic mammals not represented in the world today. Pakicetids have been recovered from rock layers in India and Pakistan—like this *Pakicetus*.

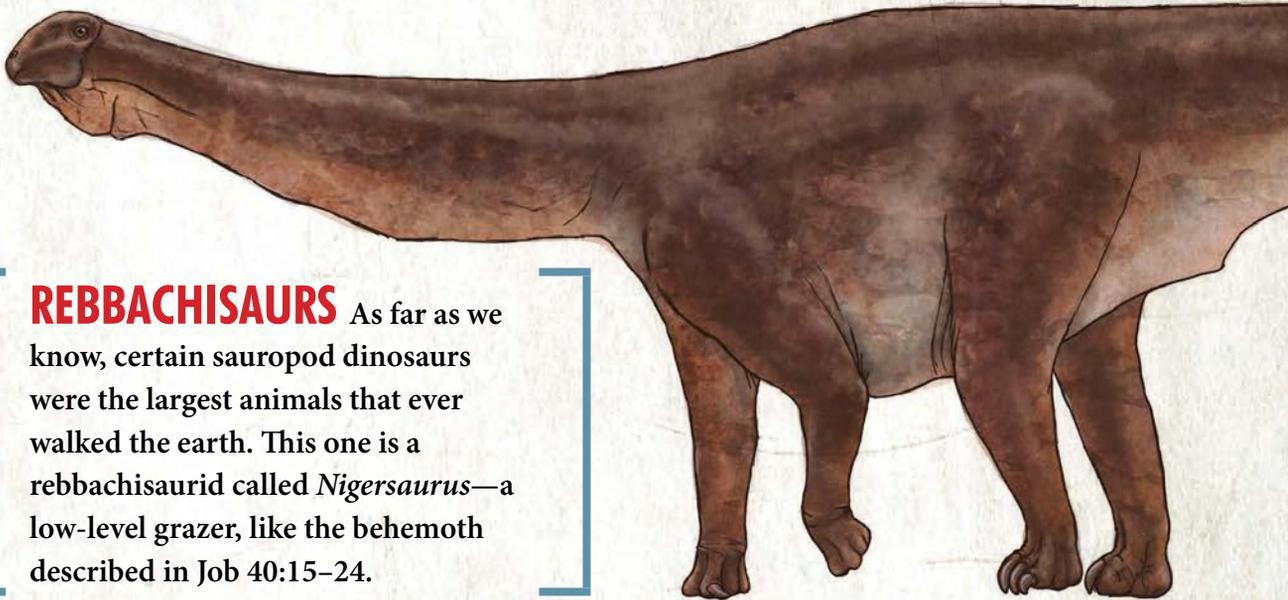


STAHLECKERIIDS

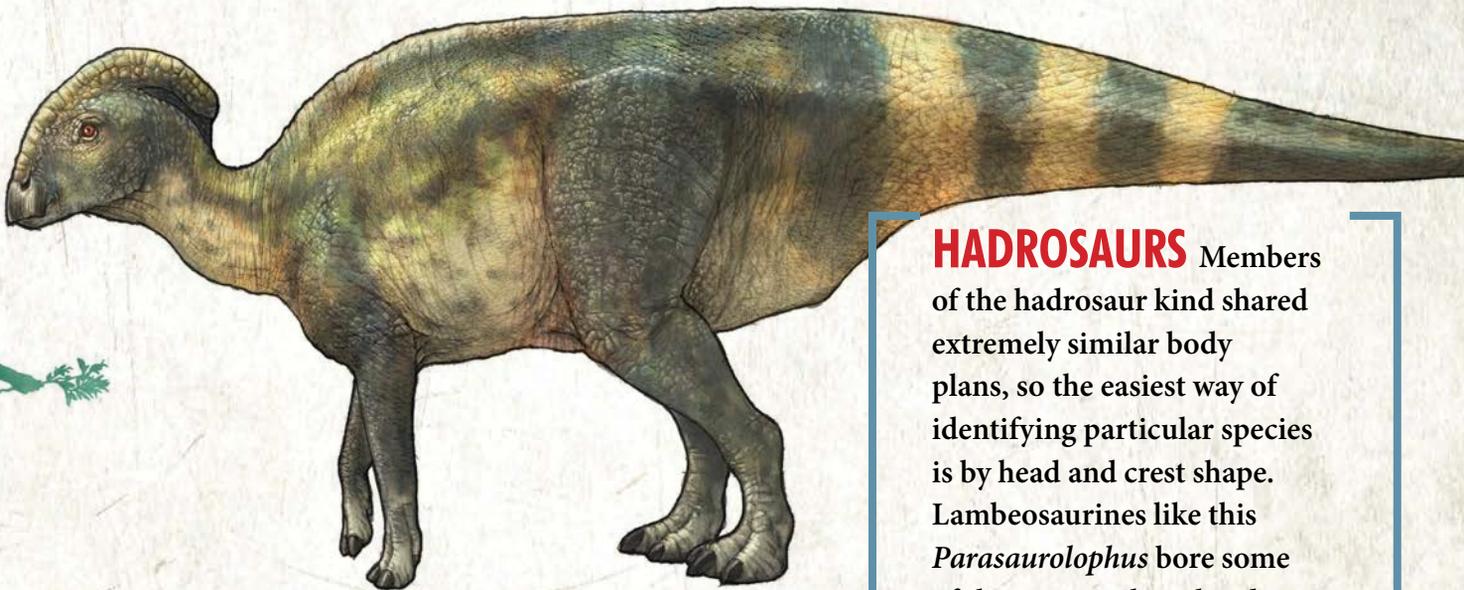
Many extinct animals looked like the stuff of science fiction. *Placerias*, the stahleckeriid synapsid shown here, was no exception. Its stocky body, short tail, beak, and tusk-like facial flanges made it look quite unlike anything we've seen before.



REBBACHISAURS As far as we know, certain sauropod dinosaurs were the largest animals that ever walked the earth. This one is a rebbachisaurid called *Nigersaurus*—a low-level grazer, like the behemoth described in Job 40:15–24.

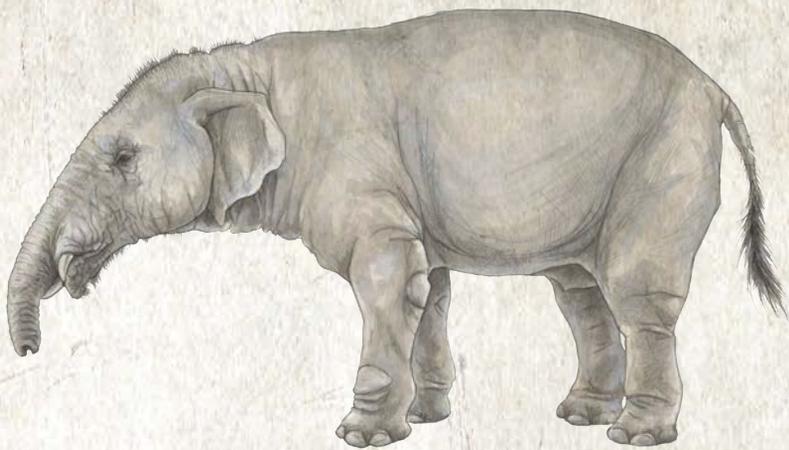


HADROSAURS Members of the hadrosaur kind shared extremely similar body plans, so the easiest way of identifying particular species is by head and crest shape. Lambeosaurines like this *Parasaurolophus* bore some of the most striking headgear, which they probably used as vocal resonators.

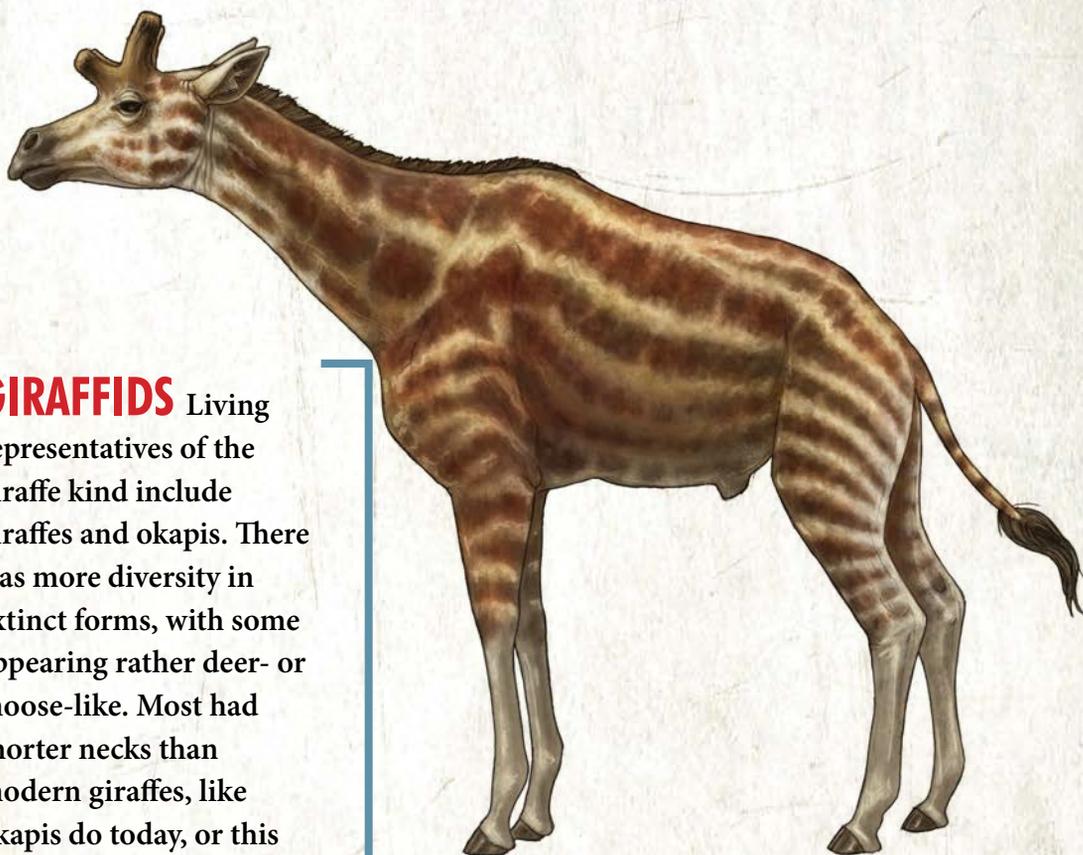
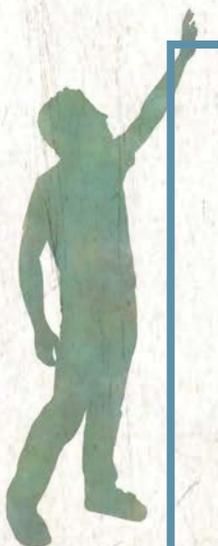


PALAEOMASTODONTS

The extinct palaeomastodonts are classified under the same suborder as elephants—Elephantiformes—but it's presently unknown if the two varieties are actually related. Compared with elephants, palaeomastodonts were smaller, had shorter trunks, and grew four tusks rather than two.



GIRAFFIDS Living representatives of the giraffe kind include giraffes and okapis. There was more diversity in extinct forms, with some appearing rather deer- or moose-like. Most had shorter necks than modern giraffes, like okapis do today, or this extinct Chinese giraffid, *Shansitherium*.



PIGS As this reconstruction of *Platygonus* demonstrates, it seems pigs haven't changed much in appearance in the last 4,200 years or so. On the other hand, some interesting off-shoots have existed along the way, such as the long-legged *Kubanochoerus*, which bore a unicorn-like horn on its head.



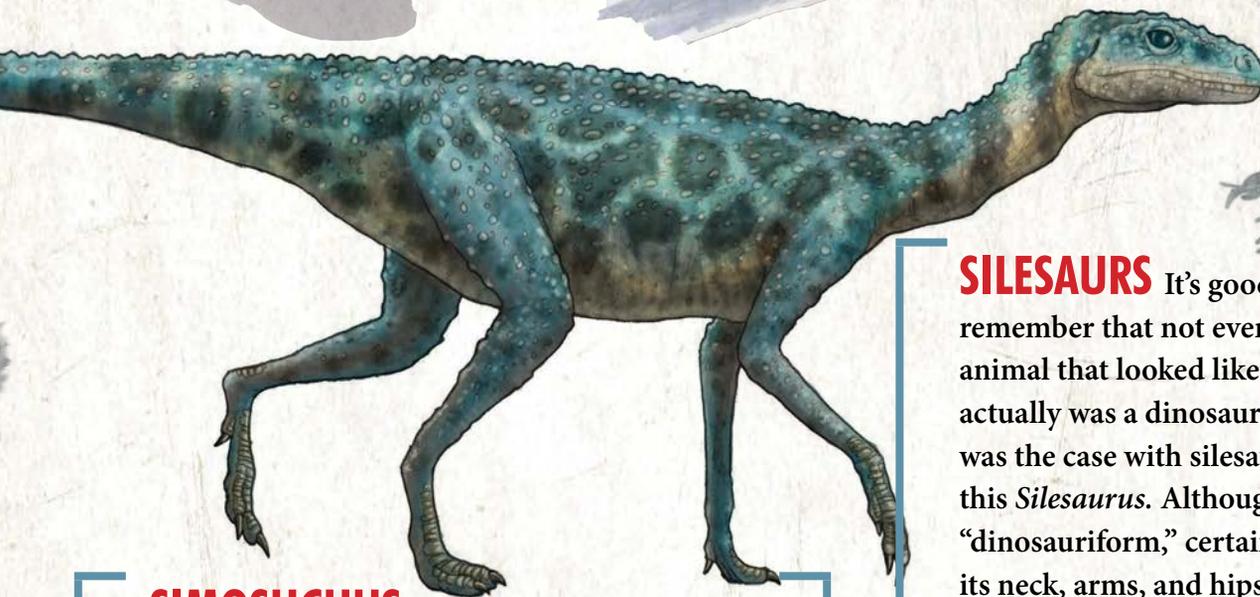
CAMELIDS The great one- and two-humped camels of Asia and Africa are probably the best-known camelids in the world. However, the earliest-known camelids, like this *Poebrotherium*, were more like smaller varieties from South America—guanacos, llamas, vicuñas, and alpacas.



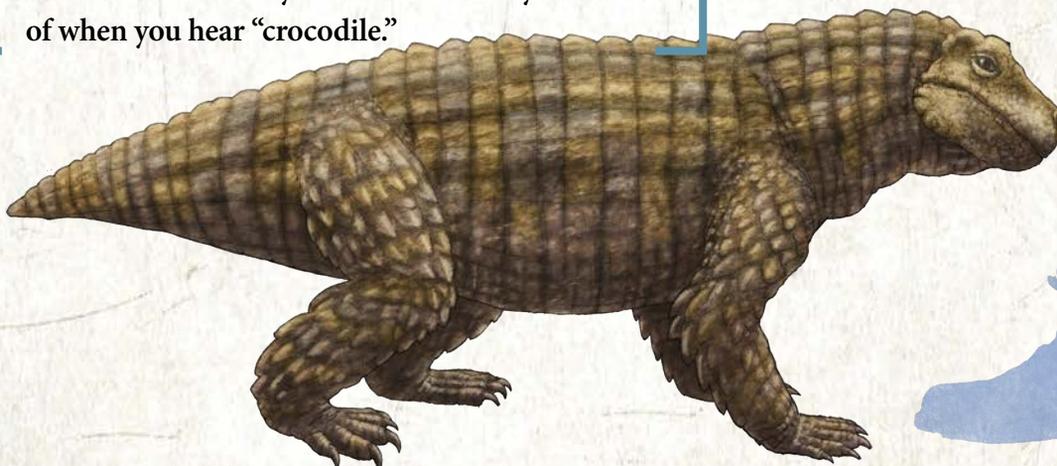
CATS Today, the cat kind is represented by felines, like cheetahs, and pantherines, like lions. In the past, there was greater variation, with machairodontines—such as the saber-toothed cat—and proailurines, like this *Proailurus*.



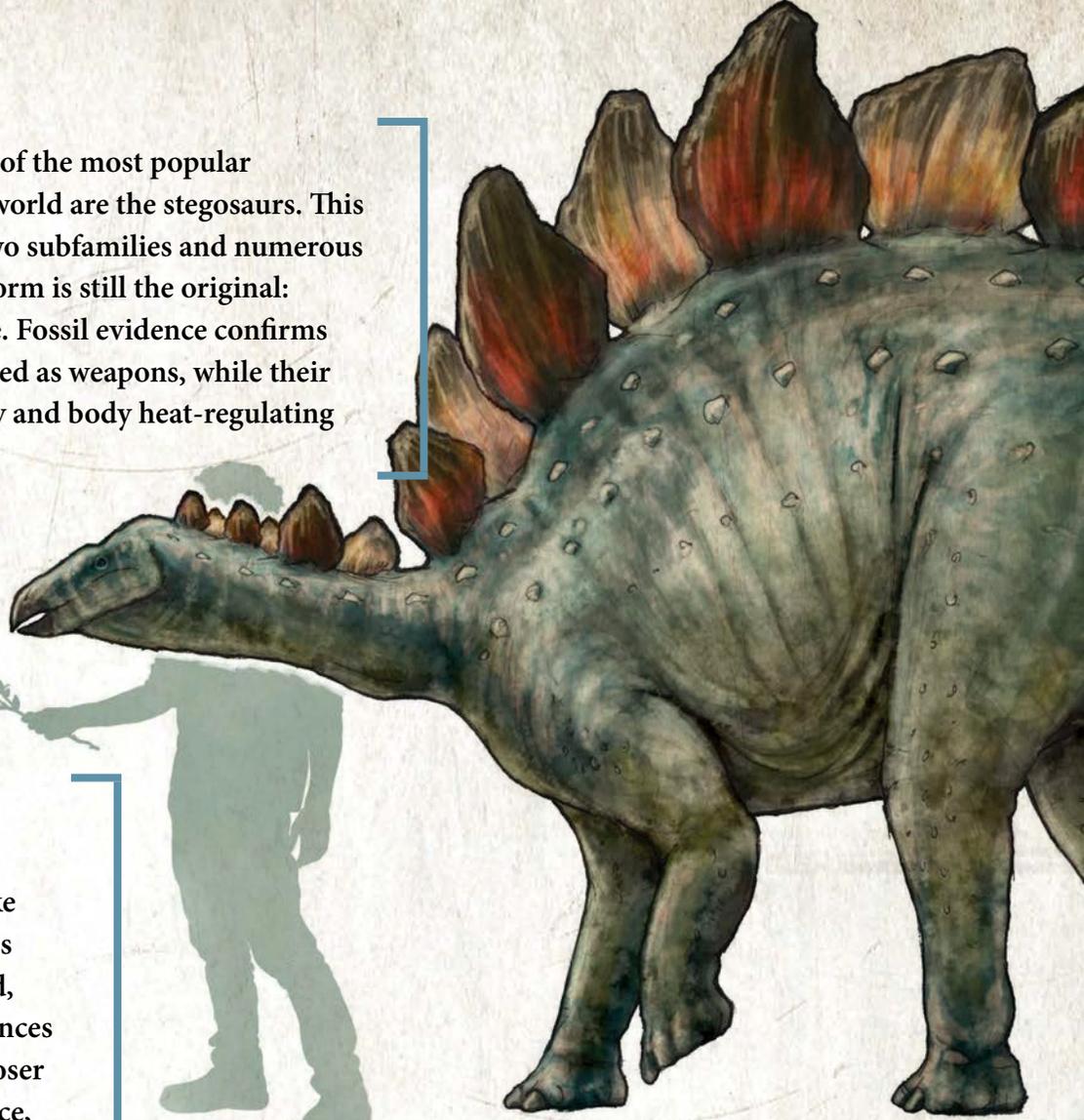
SILESAURS It's good to remember that not every extinct animal that looked like a dinosaur actually was a dinosaur. Such was the case with silesaurs, like this *Silesaurus*. Although it was a “dinosauriform,” certain aspects of its neck, arms, and hips exclude it from the superorder Dinosauria.



SIMOSUCHUS was a pug-nosed, short-tailed, crocodile-like reptile. At maturity, they were less than three feet in length and covered with bony plates, called scutes. They were apparently plant-eaters, exhibiting leaf-shaped buckteeth set in boxy skulls—not what you think of when you hear “crocodile.”

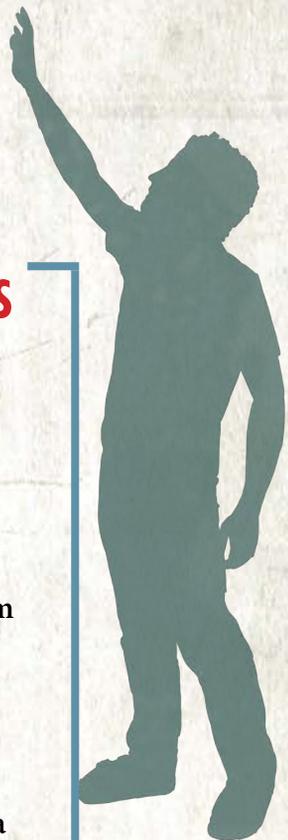
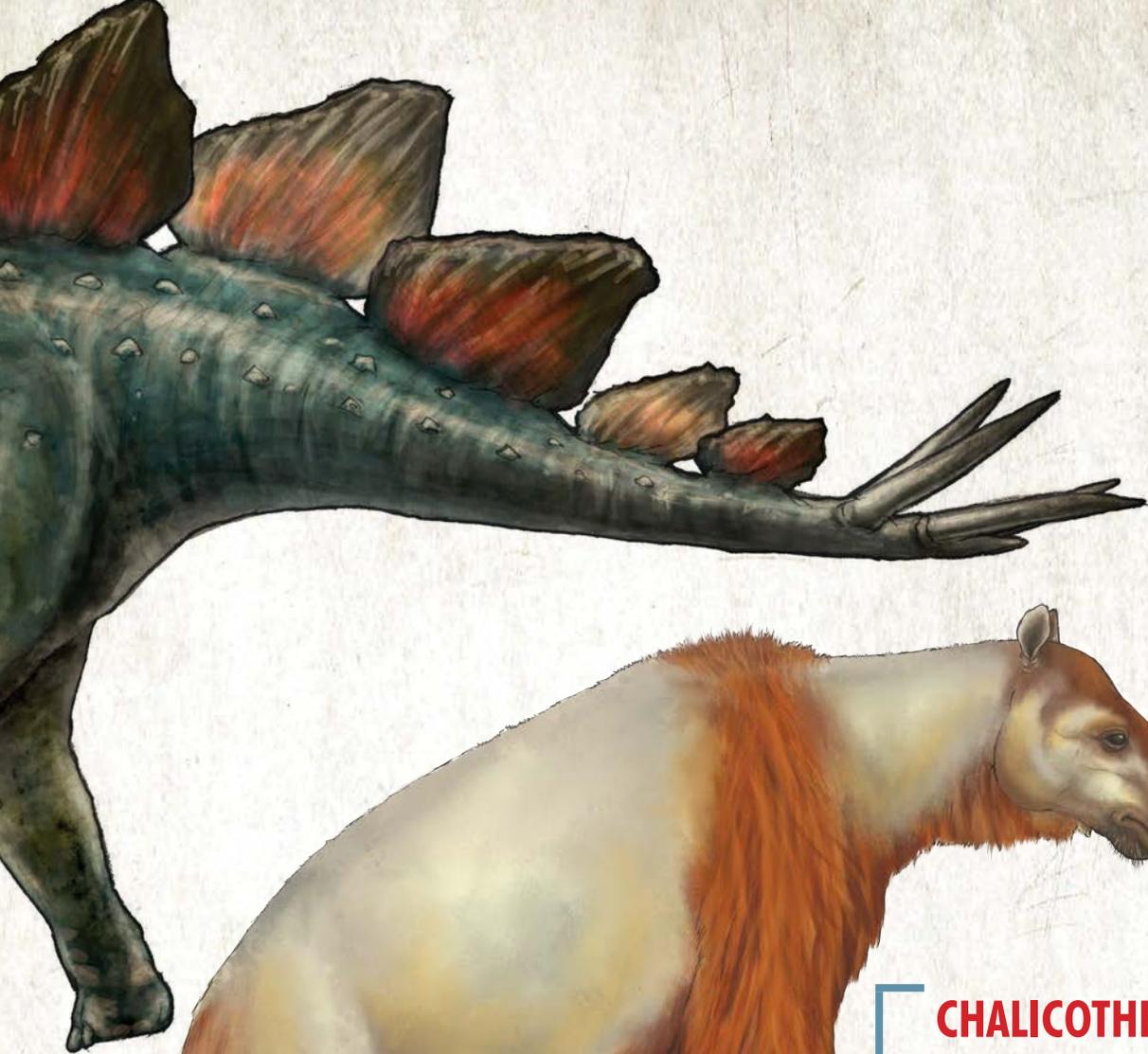


STEGOSAURS One of the most popular dinosaur groups in the world are the stegosaurs. This kind included at least two subfamilies and numerous species, but the classic form is still the original: *Stegosaurus*, shown here. Fossil evidence confirms that their spikes were used as weapons, while their plates were likely display and body heat-regulating organs.



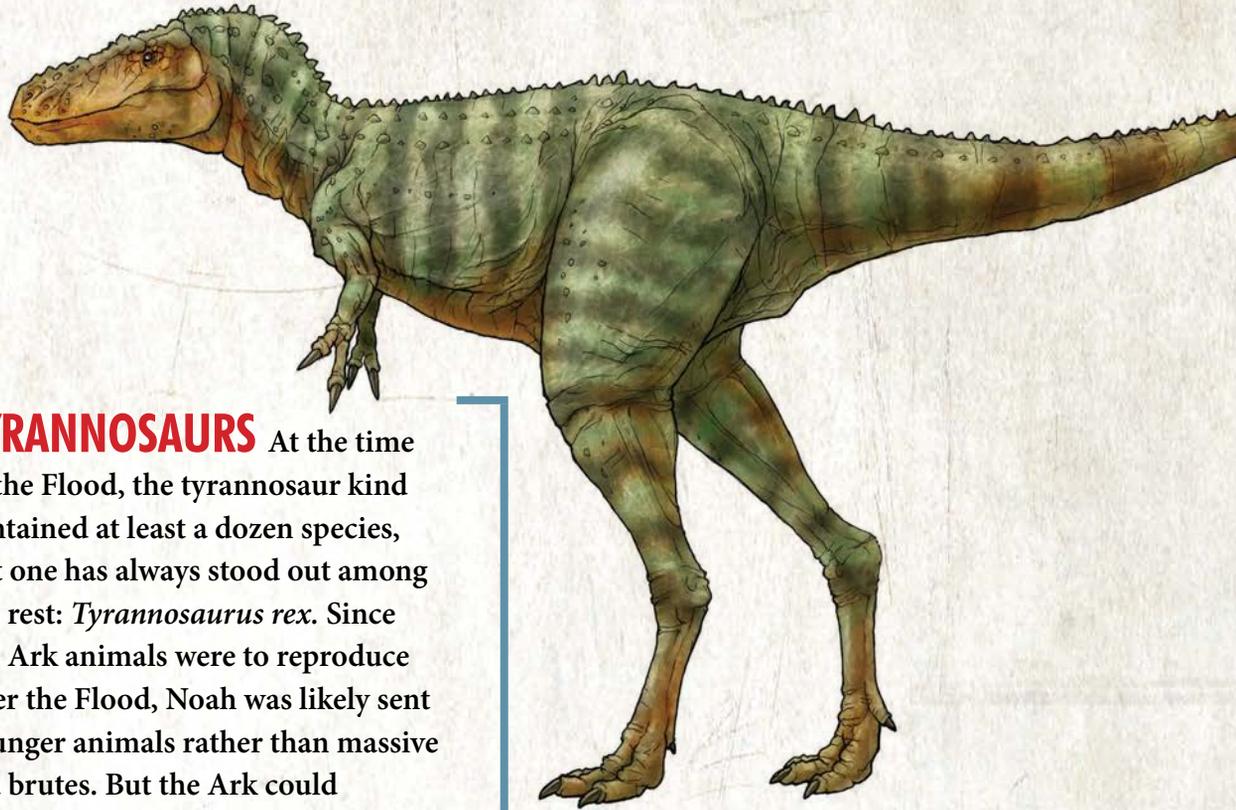
UINTATHERES At first glance, uintatheres probably looked a lot like rhinos. These two groups are completely unrelated, however, and the differences become obvious with closer examination. For instance, many uintatheres had tusks, ossicones like giraffes, and elephant-like feet.





CHALICOTHERES

were a group of odd-toed ungulates—like horses, rhinos, and tapirs. But unlike those modern forms, chalicotheres bodies sloped backwards from the front, and a few, like this *Anisodon*, even walked on their knuckles like gorillas. Though some looked a lot like ground sloths, their kind is apparently not represented today.



TYRANNOSAURS At the time of the Flood, the tyrannosaur kind contained at least a dozen species, but one has always stood out among the rest: *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Since the Ark animals were to reproduce after the Flood, Noah was likely sent younger animals rather than massive old brutes. But the Ark could accommodate a pair of tyrannosaurs regardless of size, age, or species.

THYLACOSMILIDS Frequently confused with saber-toothed cats, the South American thylacosmilids are actually placed in the same infraclass as marsupials—Metatheria. The kind contains a handful of species, but the one shown here, *Thylacosmilus*, was the largest and most impressive. It is thought that female thylacosmilids carried their young in rear-facing pouches.

