

Video/Slide show

Students watch a short film about dinosaurs.

How dinosaurs get their names

Scientists usually use Latin or Greek words to name dinosaurs. A name often describes the dinosaur in some way. For example, Triceratops means "three-horned head," and it is exactly how Triceratops looks like.

Sometimes new dinosaurs are named after people. Leaellynasaura was named after the daughter (Leaellyn) of the paleontologists who discovered this dinosaur's skull.

Other dinosaurs might be named after the place where they were discovered. For example, Arctosaurus was found near the Arctic Circle.