

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

DINO JAWS

Presented by the Natural History Museum London

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Dino Jaws is supported by:
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Touring Exhibitions
The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
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www.nhm.ac.uk/touringexhibitions

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Exhibition Overview

What did dinosaurs eat – and how do we know? Featuring the most frighteningly lifelike moving dinosaurs ever created, this family-friendly exhibition explores the sometimes gory, and often messy, subject of dinosaurs and their food.

From the infamous flesh-eating *T.rex* to the plant-munching *Iguanodon*, different dinosaurs ate different foods and often had unique ways of gathering or catching their dinner. This spectacular exhibition includes intriguing fossil evidence, fun hands-on exhibits, fascinating scientific insights, and spectacular animatronic models—revealing what scientists know about what and how dinosaurs ate.



The exhibition is divided into three areas:

- Introduction
- Dinosaur Dig/Dinosaur Lab
- Feeding Frenzy

Linking these areas together is the optional digital trail, which lets your students discover the identity of their own mystery dinosaur.

The **Introduction** area is dominated by three life-sized animatronic dinosaur heads showing how the teeth and jaws move together to tear, grind, and chew food. One half of each head is fleshed and the other half is skull. This enables your students to get a close-up look at the grinding jaws and demonstrates the basic anatomical difference between meat-eaters and plant-eaters.

The **Dinosaur Dig** area is a virtual dig experience. Students turn into dinosaur detectives to find key fossil evidence of dinosaur diets. This area is based on the discovery of *Baryonyx* – a giant fish-eating dinosaur, unearthed just outside London. The **Dinosaur Lab**, set in the same space, is a well-equipped field laboratory area for your students to explore fossils in more depth.

In Dinosaur Lab, visitors can investigate the fossils that were unearthed to discover more about the feeding behavior of *Baryonyx*.

- At the **teeth investigation station**, students compare *Baryonyx* teeth to those of other dinosaurs and living reptiles to get clues as to what it might have eaten.
- At the **claw investigation station**, they piece together a claw and consult with paleontologists to find out how it was used to catch food.
- At the **final investigation station**, the young scientists study sections of fossilized stomach contents and feces under the microscope to find evidence of dinosaur food.

The **Dig** and **Lab** area aim to show students how we know what we do about basic dinosaur biology.

Stepping back in time, visitors find themselves walking into the **Feeding Frenzy** of hungry dinosaurs. Six animatronic dinosaurs in dramatic scenes demonstrate some of the different dinosaur feeding strategies, from slow-moving plant-eaters to fierce, agile flesh-eater.





Check it out!

- The *T. rex* bite force interactive gives students a chance to measure their strength against the unbelievable power of the *T. rex* bite.
- The *Brachiosaurus* stomach stone interactive allows your students to feel a stomach with the gastroliths inside.
- Piled high behind the plant-eating *Euoplocephalus* animatronic is a giant mound of feces. Students can investigate the poop to find traces of what this armored dinosaur might have eaten. They can also touch real fossilized dinosaur poop. However, they have to watch out for the deadly swinging tail of *Euoplocephalus*!
- Students witness *Velociraptor* devouring the carcass of a *Protoceratops*. In this living animatronic scene, they see the full force of the feathered *Velociraptor*, with its grasping hands, climbing claws, and teeth for ripping flesh.
- The three-quarter life-sized *Baryonyx* animatronic is 8.5 meters long, (28 ft) and was a fish-eater. Students can see its claw in action as it tries to scoop a fish from the water.



Correlations to California State Content Standards

Life Science

Kindergarten 2a–c

Grade One 2a–d

Grade Two 2a–d

Grade Three 3a–e

Grade Four 2b, 3b

Grade Five 2c

Grade Seven 3a, c, e; 5c, g

Grades Nine–Twelve Ecology, Evolution, Physiology

Earth Science

Kindergarten–Grade Five

Grade Seven 4b, d

Investigation and Experimentation

Kindergarten 4a–e

Grade One 4a, b, d

Grade Two 4a

Grade Three 5b, c

Grade Four 6a–c

English–Language Arts

Kindergarten–Grade Six Reading Comprehension and Writing Strategies