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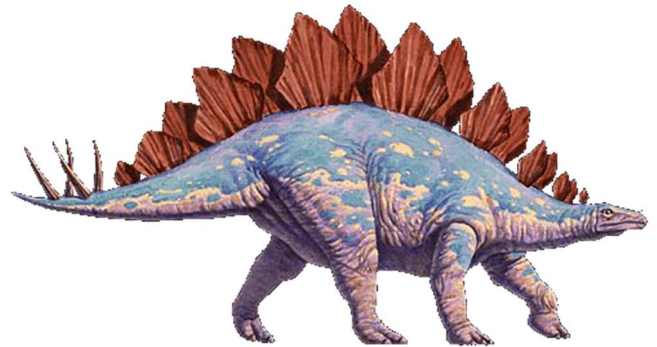
THE DINOSAURS



Stegosaurus

The name stegosaurus means lizard with roof or covered lizard and refers to the bone plates it had from the neck to the tail, where it also had some thorns.

Their plates may have been covered in skin, with edges and corners that it used to defend itself. Many paleontologists believe that the plates also served to regulate its temperature and was a pretty ornament.



The stegosaurus was herbivorous, which means that it ate plants. Paleontologists find its posture strange because it had a strongly arched back, its front legs were shorter than the back ones, its stiff tail was suspended in the air, and its head was close to the ground. It was not a small dinosaur; it was around nine meters long and four meters high.

It was believed that this species lived only in North America at the end of the Jurassic period, 150 million years ago. In 2006, however, stegosaurus fossils were discovered in Portugal, indicating that this dinosaur was also present in Europe.

Despite its size, and its 4 ½ ton weight, the brain of the stegosaurus likely weighed only about 80 grams. This is why many people think that the stegosaurus was the least intelligent of the dinosaurs. It is true that his brain was small even for a dinosaur, but it fit well with its slow and herbivorous, plant-eating, lifestyle.

