



10 Fast Facts About *T-Rex*

1. ***T-Rex was one of the most terrifying meat-eating dinos to have ever-lived, but it wasn't the biggest!***

At approximately 12m long and 4m tall and weighing-in between 7 to 18 metric tons, *T-Rex* was of a similar size or perhaps even smaller than animals like the 9 ton *Giganotosaurus* and 10 ton *Spinosaurus*! Sadly, we will never know who was the mightiest of them all as they lived in different times and places.

2. ***T-Rex was covered in feathers!***

It's true, all *tyrannosaurs* including *T-Rex* are inferred to have had feathers covering their bodies to varying degrees. This is based on the amazing fossils of two amazing feathered Chinese *tyrannosaurs* *Dilong* and *Yutyranus*.

3. ***T-Rex's arms were small but they weren't completely useless!***

At less than a meter long, *T-Rex* arms were very short in proportion to the rest of its body. However, these puny arms still benefited the animal to some degree, such as in holding onto prey and even mates. Their head was certainly their business end though!

4. ***T-Rex was a killing machine with teeth like steak knives!***

Their strong and serrated teeth allowed them to easily chomp through the flesh and bone of any prey!

5. ***T-Rex had one of the most powerful bites of any creature that walked the planet!***

Scientists believe *T-Rex* could bite down on its prey with a force as high as 60,000 Newtons which is about three and a half times greater than the strongest bite of its distant modern relative, the saltwater crocodile. In comparison to lions and great white sharks, they were amateurs compared to *T-Rex*!

6. ***T-Rex was not an unloved, lonesome, solitary beast.***

As a matter a fact, some fossil sites - including in Mongolia and North America - preserve several *tyrannosaur* skeletons altogether representing individuals from different growth stages. However, further work is needed to confirm if these animals lived in groups.



7. *T-Rex was not the fastest but it was fast enough!*

Could *T-Rex* out-run the fastest man on Earth, Usain Bolt? The answer is a resounding yes! A study into how *T-Rex* moved estimated that it could get up to speeds of ~5-10 meters per second (~20-40 kilometers per hour), which means while they weren't the cheetahs of their time, they definitely weren't slow!

8. *T-Rex was smart but not as smart as us!*

Tyrannosaurs brains were bigger than earlier meat-eating dinosaurs but smaller than birds and human brains. Studies of *T-Rex* brain suggest they had a strong sense of smell, were sensitive to low sounds and had highly coordinated head and eye movements. Perfect attributes for an apex predator!

9. *T-Rex didn't live for long but they grew fast!*

Paleontologists have found that *tyrannosaurs* like *T-Rex* probably lived until they were about 20-25 years old, but to reach their massive size, they had to put on an equivalent of 2kg of weight each day! Since these dinosaurs were at the top of their food chain, more likely causes of death would have been old age, mortal combat with other *T-Rex*, disease or hunger, rather than attacks from other dinosaurs.

10. *Tyrannosaurs lived all around the World and in many different environments!*

From Eurasia (the combined landmass of Europe and Asia) 130 million years ago in a temperate forest habitat, to the island of Laramidia (which today stretches from Alaska to Mexico) on a subtropical forested floodplain, *tyrannosaurs* didn't always dominate their environments like *T-Rex* did. *T-Rex* was one of the last *tyrannosaurs* before a catastrophic asteroid impact - along with massive long-term volcanic eruptions - caused their total extinction. Today, the only living dinosaurs are birds which look very different from *T-Rex*!