

Name: _____

Spinosaurus

By Guy Belleranti

Spinosaurus was a gigantic meat-eating dinosaur. It was even longer and heavier than the famous Tyrannosaurus rex. It was one of the biggest meat-eating dinosaurs.

The Spinosaurus and the Tyrannosaurus rex lived in the Cretaceous period, but they never met. T. rex lived at least 30 million years after Spinosaurus.

Spinosaurus had long bony spines coming out of its back. Scientists believe these spines were connected together with skin and blood vessels into a sail-like shape. This sail might have helped Spinosaurus keep its body at the right temperature. It also added to this scary beast's size.

Like T. rex, Spinosaurus had long, strong hind legs. However, its front arms were much longer than T. rex's. This could mean Spinosaurus sometimes walked on all fours.

Spinosaurus had a long, crocodile-like snout filled with sharp teeth. These teeth weren't as large as T. rex's. However, they would've been perfect for eating fish and smaller dinosaurs.



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1. Spinosaurus was ...
 - a. the largest dinosaur that ever lived.
 - b. much smaller than a Tyrannosaurus rex.
 - c. one of the fastest dinosaurs.
 - d. a meat-eating dinosaur.

2. The Spinosaurus lived during the _____ period.

3. Did the Tyrannosaurus rex and the Spinosaurus ever see each other? Explain your answer.

4. The spines on the Spinosaurus's back may have been used to ...
 - a. keep its body the right temperature.
 - b. attack other dinosaurs.
 - c. help it walk on two legs.
 - d. keep it afloat in water.

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Draw straight lines to match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1. gigantic | • | • well-known |
| 2. famous | • | • thin and filled with bones |
| 3. bony | • | • huge |
| 4. temperature | • | • nose and mouth of an animal |
| 5. snout | • | • reptile that lives in shallow water |
| 6. crocodile | • | • measure of how hot or cold something is |

ANSWER KEY

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1. Spinosaurus was ...
 - a. the largest dinosaur that ever lived.
 - b. much smaller than a Tyrannosaurus rex.
 - c. one of the fastest dinosaurs.

d. a meat-eating dinosaur.

2. The Spinosaurus lived during the Cretaceous period.

3. Did the Tyrannosaurus rex and the Spinosaurus ever see each other? Explain your answer.

No because the T. rex lived 30 million years after the Spinosaurus.

4. The spines on the Spinosaurus's back may have been used to ...

a. keep its body the right temperature.

- b. attack other dinosaurs.
- c. help it walk on two legs.
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