Stegosaurus lived in the Late Jurassic period. That was 150 million years ago.

Stegosaurus ate plants, just like Apatosaurus and Brachiosaurus. But the Stegosaurus was much smaller than those two dinosaurs. Some stegosauruses grew to be 30 feet (9 meters) long.

Stegosaurus didn’t look like any other dinosaur. Seventeen triangle-shaped plates stuck up from the skin on its back. Four spikes stuck out of the end of its tail.

The Stegosaurus was probably not very smart. Its brain was the size of a walnut.

Scientists once thought Stegosaurus used the plates for protection. The plates made Stegosaurus look larger and tougher. But the plates weren’t very strong. They had hollow sections that might have contained blood vessels. So now scientists think the plates helped Stegosaurus keep its body at the right temperature.

Stegosaurus probably did use its tail spikes to fight off meat-eaters like Allosaurus. It also might have traveled in herds for extra protection.
Stegosaurus
By Guy Belleranti

1. How long ago did the Stegosaurus live?
   a. less than 100 million years ago
   b. less than 50 million years ago
   c. more than 100 million years ago
   d. more than 200 million years ago

2. The Stegosaurus lived during the __________________________ period.

3. ____________________, ____________________, and ____________________

4. What did the Stegosaurus use to protect itself?
   a. its tail
   b. its mouth
   c. the plates on its back
   d. its brain

5. Which meat-eating dinosaurs would attack Stegosauruses?

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Stegosaurus
Article by Guy Belleranti

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

1. sections • • red liquid in an animal
2. hollow • • shape with three sides
3. scientists • • parts
4. herds • • having nothing inside

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ANSWER KEY

Stegosaurus
By Guy Belleranti

1. How long ago did the Stegosaurus live? c
   a. less than 100 million years ago
   b. less than 50 million years ago
   c. more than 100 million years ago
   d. more than 200 million years ago

2. The Stegosaurus lived during the **Late Jurassic** period.

3. **PREVIEW**
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4. 
   a. its tail
   b. its mouth
   c. the plates on its back
   d. its brain

5. Which meat-eating dinosaurs would attack Stegosauruses? **Allosaurus**