

# AM I A DINOSAUR?



**Can you help Dorothy, the elasmosaurus, and George, the lambeosaurus, figure out if they are dinosaurs?**



The first land-dwelling organisms emerged from the sea during the Devonian period, about 400 million years ago. It took another 170 million years for dinosaurs to evolve, appearing first during the Triassic period, and then dominating Earth through the late Cretaceous until finally going extinct around 66 million years ago.

During that time, dinosaurs coexisted with numerous species that we wouldn't classify as dinosaurs, including other reptiles, mammals, and sea-dwelling organisms.

**Using our Dorothy (elasmosaurus) and George (lambeosaurus) online exhibit posters for reference, match the cards below to either Dorothy or George. Based on your answers, do you think that either of them is a dinosaur?**

**A**

I laid eggs, averaging clutches of ten to a nest.

**B**

Evidence suggests that I was viviparous, giving birth to live young underwater.

**C**

My sprawling stance positioned my flippers to either side of me, where I used them to propel me through the water.

**D**

A hole in my hip socket allowed me to stand upright, moving on two or four limbs as the situation called for.

**E**

I had a long, straight neck, which I held out in front of me as I swam.

**F**

Looking at my skeleton, you can tell that I had a curved, s-shaped neck.

**G**

I dwelled underwater, hunting small fish and invertebrates in the Western Interior Seaway of North America.

**H**

I dwelled on land, grazing in the floodplains of modern Alberta.

**DOROTHY: B,C,E,G  
GEORGE: A,D,F,H**



# CAN YOU IDENTIFY A DINOSAUR?



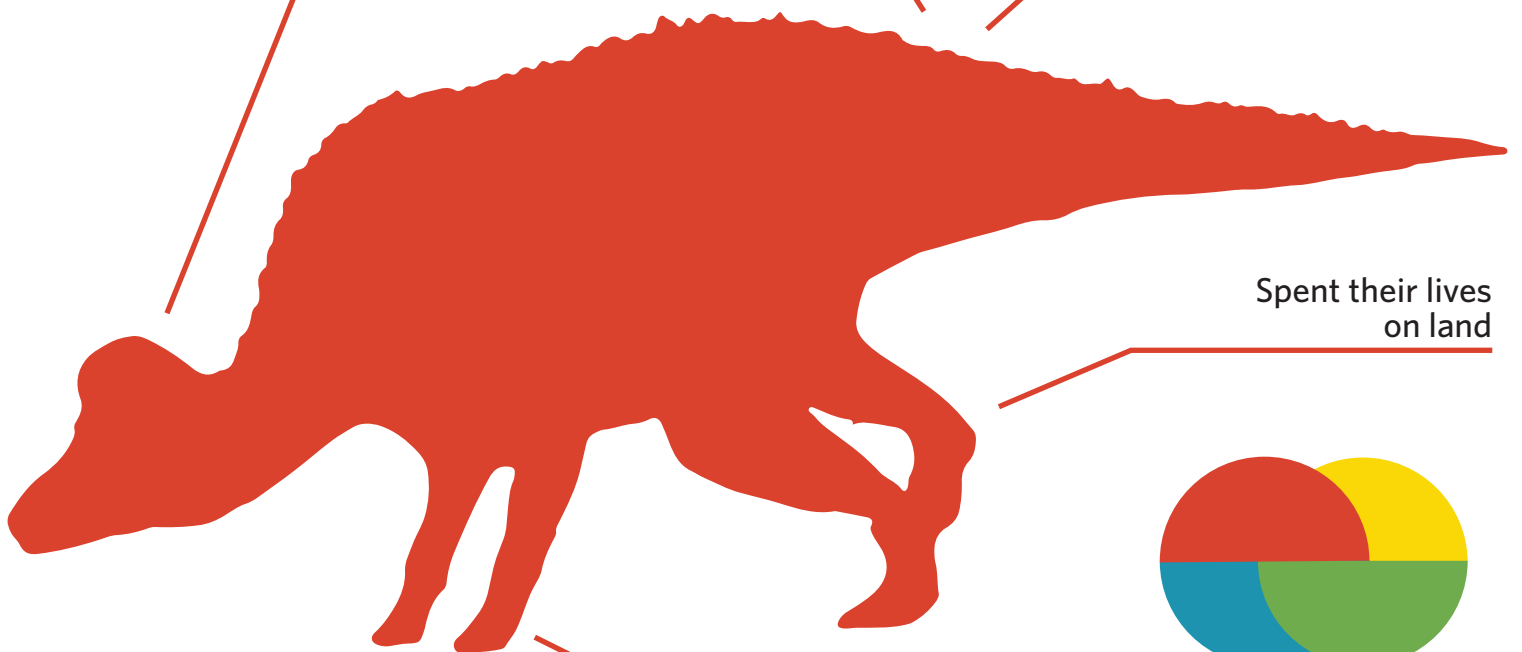
Below is a list of traits that separate dinosaurs from other ancient reptiles. Review the list, and then revisit the question: Am I a dinosaur?

**Do you still think George and Dorothy are dinosaurs. Why or why not?**

Had a perpendicular, upright stance, with legs below their body

Had an "s" shaped neck

Had their young by laying eggs



Spent their lives on land

Walked on toed feet

