

MESOZOIC ERA TIMELINE

A Comprehensive Guide to the Age of Reptiles

Triassic Period

252 - 201 Million Years Ago

GENUS	CLASSIFICATION	NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Coelophysis	Theropod	Slender, agile predator; one of the earliest known dinosaurs.
Herrerasaurus	Basal Theropod	Bipedal carnivore; flexible jaw for gripping large prey.
Plateosaurus	Prosauropod	Early long-necked herbivore; capable of bipedal movement.

Jurassic Period

201 - 145 Million Years Ago

GENUS	CLASSIFICATION	NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Allosaurus	Theropod	Apex predator; distinctive "horns" above the eyes.
Brachiosaurus	Sauropod	Enormous neck; longer front legs than hind legs.
Stegosaurus	Thyreophora	Double row of kite-shaped plates; spiked tail (Thagomizer).
Archaeopteryx	Avialae	Transitional fossil between dinosaurs and modern birds.

Cretaceous Period

145 - 66 Million Years Ago

GENUS	CLASSIFICATION	NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Tyrannosaurus Rex	Theropod	Massive skull; extremely high bite force; vestigial arms.
Triceratops	Ceratopsian	Large bony frill; three distinct facial horns.
Velociraptor	Dromaeosaurid	Feathered pack hunter; sickle-shaped toe claws.
Spinosaurus	Spinosaurid	Largest known carnivore; sail-like neural spines on back.

Extinction Event (K-Pg Boundary): 66 MYA â€œ Data for Educational Purposes Only