

PREHISTORIC ERA DINOSAURS

A Chronological Reference Guide

252 - 201 MILLION YEARS AGO

Triassic Period

The rise of the first dinosaurs and the breakup of Pangea.

- **Coelophysis** Small, slender bipedal carnivore.
- **Herrerasaurus** One of the earliest known dinosaurs.
- **Plateosaurus** Early long-necked herbivore.
- **Eoraptor** Basal theropod from South America.

201 - 145 MILLION YEARS AGO

Jurassic Period

The golden age of giant sauropods and feathered evolution.

- **Brachiosaurus** Massive high-browsing herbivore.
- **Allosaurus** The dominant apex predator.
- **Stegosaurus** Distinctive plated back and tail spikes.
- **Archaeopteryx** Transitional fossil between dinosaurs and birds.

145 - 66 MILLION YEARS AGO

Cretaceous Period

Diverse specialization and the final mass extinction event.

- **Tyrannosaurus Rex** Powerful late-period carnivore.
- **Triceratops** Large three-horned herbivore.
- **Velociraptor** Small, agile pack hunter with sickle claws.
- **Spinosaurus** Largest known carnivorous dinosaur.