

# DINOSAURS

Sarah Sweeney



REDHOUSE

*For Alya who loved dinosaurs first,  
and Emel who loves them now.*

S. S.

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Discovering the World, Dinosaurs

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# BEFORE YOU READ

Look around you, imagine the world without buildings, cars, and streets. Imagine there are no people, but instead dinosaurs are walking freely. Would you be scared? Or would you like to explore and see as many dinosaurs as you can?

Would you like to know more about these creatures that had power over the land before us? Read on!

**DON'T FORGET:** There is a glossary at the end of the book where you can look up the meanings of the words you don't know.



# INTRODUCTION

Have you ever watched a movie or read a book about dinosaurs? Maybe you've even seen pictures of their bones. If you are really lucky, you might have seen real dinosaur bones in a museum. Have you ever wondered what dinosaurs were really like, and what the earth was like when the dinosaurs lived on it?

Dinosaurs are a very interesting part of our earth's history. But why are we all so interested in dinosaurs? What makes them so special? There is still a lot we don't know about dinosaurs, but scientists are working hard to learn more every day, so they can teach us.

# WHAT IS A DINOSAUR?



Very simply, dinosaurs were reptiles. The term “dinosaur” was created by Sir Richard Owen in 1842, and means “terrible lizard.”

You might think there were flying dinosaurs, and dinosaurs that lived in the sea, but you would be wrong. The air creatures, pterosaurs, or pterodactyls were actually just flying reptiles, not dinosaurs, even though they lived at the same time. The sea creatures or sea monsters were not dinosaurs either, but were marine reptiles. Some dinosaurs went into the water to catch fish, but they didn’t live in the water.