Did you know?

The most massive sauropod is Argentinosaurus, weighing up to an astonishing 90 tons (82,000 kg). The smallest, Europasaurus holgeri, weighed less than a ton (900 kg), or about as much as a cow.

Sauropods had the longest necks and longest tails of any known dinosaurs.

Many sauropods grew new teeth as often as once a month, as old ones wore out.

Some titanosaurids, one family of sauropods, were covered with bony plates called osteoderms.

Scientists think that sauropods might have been brightly colored, like many modern-day birds and reptiles.

We know from trackway evidence, which shows smaller sauropods in the middle, that some sauropods traveled in herds.

Will even bigger dinosaurs be discovered some day? Probably!

CREDITS

The World’s Largest Dinosaurs is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org) in collaboration with Coolture Marketing, Bogotá, Colombia.

The World’s Largest Dinosaurs is proudly supported by Bank of America.

Additional support is generously provided by Marshall P. and Rachael C. Levine, Drs. Harlan B. and Natasha Levine, and Joyce and Bob Giuffra.

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What does it mean to be big?

Size matters. It affects just about everything an animal does. As you move through the exhibition, examine Mamenchisaurus for clues to a fascinating scientific question:

What did it take to be so big?

Tiny Head, Tiny Teeth
This plant eater needed to eat over 1,000 pounds (450 kg) of food a day! Find out how it got enough to eat.

The Longest Neck of All
Its long neck is amazingly strong, flexible, and light. Examine a vertebra to discover its airy secret.

A Powerful Pump
The bigger the animal, the bigger and more powerful its heart needs to be. A sauropod heart had 4 chambers, just like:
- mammals
- birds
- reptiles
- fish

A Lung Like a Bird’s
Take a deep breath and notice how your diaphragm moves up and down. Explore a sauropod lung to see how differently these dinosaurs breathed.

Getting Big—Fast
At hatching, Mamenchisaurus wasn’t much bigger than you were as a baby. But it would double its size in just 5 days, and double again in another 7 days! Find out why hatchlings were so small.

Meet Mamenchisaurus
Height at hip: 11 feet (3.5 meters)
Neck length: 30 feet (9 meters)
Weight: 13 tons (11,800 kilograms)
Lived: 160 million years ago, in what is now China

Gassy Giants
Sauropods probably passed a lot of gas. They may have released around 13 gallons (50 liters) of gas per day!