

# THE EXPLORERS



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**FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE DINOS**





## TREASURE HUNT

Can you find these items in the ruins?



NICK



EMMA



WILL



SAMMY

## THE EXPLORERS

"I think the old Captain was talking nonsense. The dinos have died out!" says Nick as he arrives at Roca island with Emma and Will. Emma shakes her head, "We have to follow the trail, at least!" The three adventurous friends make their way deep into the jungle until they reach some old ruins. Two glistening red stones set into the wall of the ruins give the appearance of a forbidding face. The friends carefully pass through the large stone gate, when a gate suddenly rattles closed behind them, giving them a fright. Then, on a stone wall overgrown with vines, they find a wall painting.

"If I understand this correctly, the inscription has something to do with dinos and plants," Nick explains.

The team of explorers decides that the first thing to do is bring their equipment into the ruins. Then, for an overview of the island, they climb a rickety staircase to the viewing platform. Will shouts to Emma and Nick: "Look! This is the perfect position for the laser." Suddenly, a loud bellowing noise makes all three of them jump. Emma bravely pulls out her telescope and can hardly believe her eyes...





"Wow, so they are still alive! The crazy Captain was telling the truth!" says Emma, delighted. They see a meadow with several dinosaurs happily frolicking. Curious, the three friends walk towards the peaceful herbivores. "Never

seen anything like it," Nick says, amazed. Emma is fascinated by the large animals and would like to photograph them – but, suddenly, she's looking straight into the eyes of a giant T-Rex...



"Argh! Let's get out of here!"

## WHEN DID DINOSAURS LIVE?

Dinosaurs populated the Earth millions of years ago. The Earth looked very different when it was home to dinosaurs. There was just one single, large continent which was called Pangaea. Today's continents were only formed many millions of years later, when the land broke apart. The age of dinosaurs is called the Mesozoic era. It covers the era from around 250 million to around 65 million years ago and is subdivided into three periods: Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous.



## WHAT DOES THE WORD 'DINOSAUR' MEAN?

- ☐ Terrible lizard
- ☐ Angry robber
- ☐ Dangerous carnivore



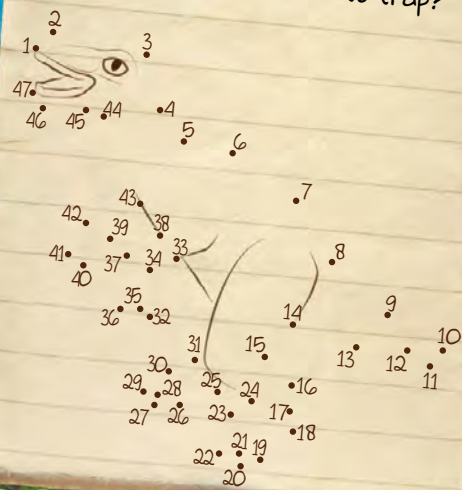
Answer: Terrible lizard



Phew – that was close! While the three friends are on a salvage mission in the ruins, they hear loud engine noises. "Oh no!" huffs Nick angrily. "That's Quinn and his crew!" The three explorers watch, horrified, as the villains charge towards the dinosaurs on a quad and an airboat, catch them in nets, and lock them in a cage. "Nick, Emma! We have to help the dinos!" Will says to his friends. "All Quinn cares about is money and fame – I'm sure he'll just put the dinos in a dino park." The explorers agree. They have to stop Quinn and his crew!

## CONNECT THE DOTS

What does Quinn want to trap?



## WHAT TYPES OF DINOSAURS EXISTED?

Dinosaurs came in many different shapes and sizes. Over 800 different species have been discovered to date, and there are new finds every year. There were carnivores and herbivores among the dinosaurs, and they moved on two or four legs depending on their posture. Some were enormous and very heavy. Others were small like dogs, which meant they could be quick and agile.

## THE OFFSPRING OF DINOSAURS

Like all reptiles, dinosaurs laid eggs from which their young hatched. The eggs differed in shape and size. Some were oval like bird eggs, and others were elongated or pointed. The dinosaurs took care of their young with affection. They sat on their eggs in nests, and even protected the young for a long time after they had hatched.



Emma finds a sticky plant on the ground and comes up with an idea. "Let's throw this fruit at them. That'll distract them and we can free the dinos!" The sludgy fruits hit the villains, who slip on the slimy mass. "Can you see how greedily the dinosaurs are charging and snapping at them?" Will whispers. Nick thinks of the wall painting in the old ruin and looks at his friends: "That's the answer! The fruit of immortality – that's why the dinos have survived for so long."

## LOOK

How many of these can you spot?

## WHY ARE THERE NO MORE DINOSAURS?

There are many theories as to why dinosaurs became extinct. One theory is that a gigantic meteorite hit the Earth, and that the impact caused so much dust that the Earth was plunged into darkness for a long time. Many plants could no longer grow, meaning there was nothing for herbivores to eat, and in turn nothing for carnivorous animals to feed on. Another theory is that several powerful volcanic eruptions resulted in similar global climate changes.

## WHO ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE DINOSAURS?

Common characteristics indicate that birds are the direct descendants of dinosaurs. Although today's animals look very different from dinosaurs, they have a few things in common. For example, dogs have the same feet as a Tyrannosaurus Rex – with

three toes pointing forward and a fourth toe that points backwards. Crocodiles are also closely linked to dinosaurs – their skulls are very similar to the skull of a dinosaur.



The friends cheer: "We did it!"

They have chased away Quinn and his squad and discovered the island's secret. "Don't be sad, Emma," Nick says as the three friends make their way home. "It's better for the dinos if no one else comes to this island." Emma puts her arms round her two friends. "That's the way to preserve the wonder of nature."

Woohoo -  
we did it!

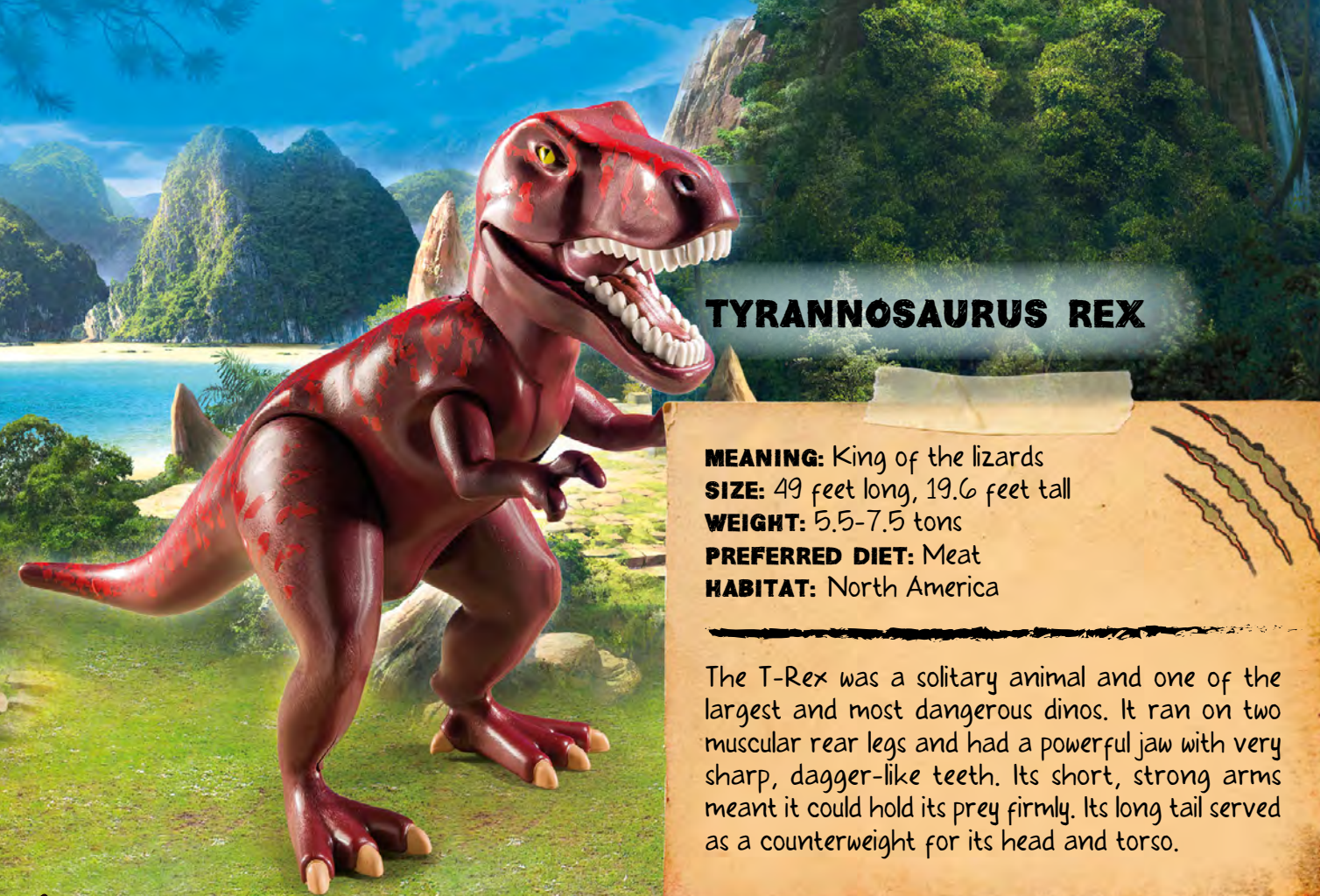
## MAZE

Help the three friends through the labyrinth. What path do they have to take to reach the ruin safely?



Answer: B





## TYRANNOSAURUS REX

**MEANING:** King of the lizards  
**SIZE:** 49 feet long, 19.6 feet tall  
**WEIGHT:** 5.5-7.5 tons  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Meat  
**HABITAT:** North America



The T-Rex was a solitary animal and one of the largest and most dangerous dinos. It ran on two muscular rear legs and had a powerful jaw with very sharp, dagger-like teeth. Its short, strong arms meant it could hold its prey firmly. Its long tail served as a counterweight for its head and torso.

## VELOCIRAPTOR



**MEANING:** Fast lizard  
**SIZE:** 6.5 feet long, 3.3 feet tall  
**WEIGHT:** 33 lbs  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Meat  
**HABITAT:** Asia

The velociraptor was a swift and scary hunter. It hunted in packs and was able to achieve high speeds over a short distance. Its sickle-shaped claws that stuck out from slim, long rear legs were particularly striking. It used them for hunting and climbing.

## DEINONYCHUS



**MEANING:** Terrible claw  
**SIZE:** 11.5 feet long, 5 feet tall  
**WEIGHT:** 165 lbs  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Meat  
**HABITAT:** North America

The deinonychus is closely related to the velociraptor. It could also run quickly and had sickle-shaped claws on its rear legs. Its powerful bite with many pointy, curved teeth, and gripping hands with sharp claws meant it was a powerful attacker.



**MEANING:** Roof lizard  
**SIZE:** 20-30 feet long, 13 feet tall  
**WEIGHT:** 2-4 tons  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Plants  
**HABITAT:** North America and Europe

The stegosaurus had a heavily arched back and unusually small head. The parallel bony plates along its back were particularly striking and could reach 2x2 ft in size. They stuck out from its neck all the way to the end of the tail and were mainly used to regulate body temperature. A large, sharp spike protruded from the end of its tail, and it used this for its defense.

## STEGOSAURUS



**MEANING:** Three horn face  
**SIZE:** 29.5 feet long, 10 feet tall  
**WEIGHT:** 8.8-13 tons  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Plants  
**HABITAT:** North America

The triceratops was a very heavy and strong animal. It lived in large herds. Its large, bulky neck frill and three horns - which could reach up to 3 feet in length - were particularly striking. These were used primarily for defence. This herbivore was able to pick nourishment from the ground with its curved jaw.

## TRICERATOPS



## PTERANODON



**MEANING:** Toothless bird  
**SIZE:** 23-29.5 feet (wingspan)  
**WEIGHT:** 35-39.5 lbs  
**PREFERRED DIET:** Fish  
**HABITAT:** North America

The pteranodon was a giant pterosaur. Its narrow bones meant it was light and could fly quickly. It had a long bony crest at the rear of its head, which was probably used for stability during flight. Similarly to the pelican today, it scooped fish out of the water with its toothless beak.



# THE EXPLORERS



9433 Enemy Airboat with Raptor



9434 Enemy Quad with Triceratops



9431 Motocross Bike with Raptor



9429 Hidden Temple with T-Rex



9432 Explorer Vehicle with Stegosaurus



9430 Adventure Copter with Pterodactyl

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