

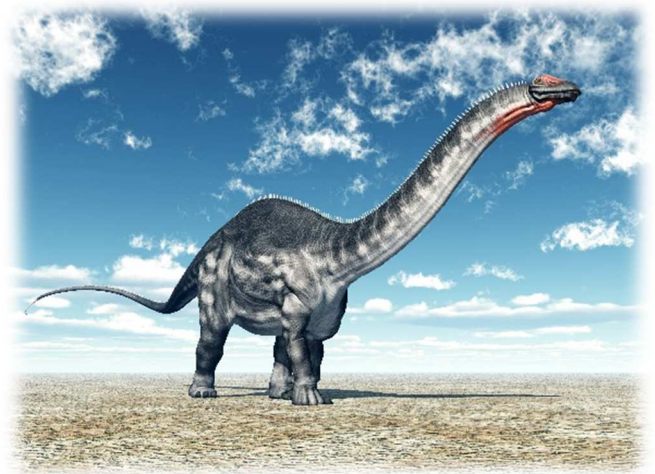
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# THE DINOSAURS Apatosaurus



The Apatosaurus is one of the giant, long-neck dinosaurs that lived at the end of the Jurassic period more than 150 million years ago in North America. Its name means deceptive lizard because some of its bones were similar to those of a prehistoric sea lizard.



So far two species of Apatosaurus are known. The first species, known as Apatosaurus ajax, was discovered in 1877, and the second species, known as Apatosaurus Louisa, was discovered in 1916.

The species discovered in 1877 was missing the head, feet, and portions of the tail. It was not until 1909 that the first head or skull of Apatosaurus was found. Many people know the Apatosaurus with the name of brontosaurus; however, experts still do not agree that they are the same species.

Because this dinosaur had chisel-shaped teeth that were not very sharp, it is believed that they were herbivores, or plant eaters. It must have eaten a lot since it was about 23 meters long, and it is estimated that its weight may have been more than 23 tons,

To sustain that immense body, the Apatosaurus had very thick, strong legs. The back legs were longer than the front. Paleontologists think it walked with its tail down on the ground, and it would use the tail as a whip, making a loud sound with it.

