

Name: _____



THE DINOSAURS



Spinosaurus

The name Spinosaurus means thorn lizard and refers to the thorns it has on its back. This dinosaur lived in north Africa during the Cretaceous period, about 112 million years ago.

The Spinosaurus may have been one of the largest terrestrial carnivores that ever existed. It was even bigger than the fearsome tyrannosaurus rex and the gigantosaurus. The paleontologists believe that the Spinosaurus could have been 18 meters long and weigh 9 tons.



The first time the Spinosaurus was known to have existed was when its fossil remains were discovered in the Baharija formation in the Baharija oasis in Egypt in 1912. In 1915, German paleontologist Ernst Stromer published an article about this new species and named it. The remains of the first Spinosaurus discovered were destroyed during the bombings of World War II, but other fossils have been recovered in recent years.

The distinctive spines of Spinosaurus, grew to 1.65 m tall and were probably connected with skin, forming a structure similar to a sail. However, some paleontologists think that the spines were covered with fat and formed a hump to store water or fat like camels. It is thought to have lived both in the water and on land like a crocodile.

Likely, the Spinosaurus walked on four legs occasionally, but according to experts, its body structure allowed it to stand and walk on its hind legs.

