

# Dinosaur Timeline

A one-page guide to the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Ages are in millions of years ago (Ma).

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>TRIASSIC<br/>251.9-201.4 Ma</p>  | <p>Early dinosaurs appear<br/>Small early dinosaurs shared land ecosystems with many other reptile groups.</p>                                  |
| <p>JURASSIC<br/>201.4-143.1 Ma</p>  | <p>Sauropods and diverse predators<br/>Large-bodied sauropods, stegosaurus and theropods spread through changing continental landscapes.</p>    |
| <p>CRETACEOUS<br/>143.1-66.0 Ma</p> | <p>Regional dinosaur worlds<br/>Flowering plants expanded; tyrannosaurs, horned dinosaurs, hadrosaurs and many feathered forms diversified.</p> |

ABOUT 233 Ma

## Oldest widely accepted dinosaurs

Small, lightly built animals occur in Late Triassic rocks.

201.4 Ma

## End-Triassic extinction

A major crisis reshaped ecosystems before Jurassic dinosaur radiations.

66.0 Ma

## End-Cretaceous extinction

The Chicxulub impact ended non-avian dinosaurs; birds survived.

### SOURCES

Period boundaries: International Commission on Stratigraphy, International Chronostratigraphic Chart. Teaching context: Natural History Museum Dino Directory and Extinct Atlas Wiki dinosaur topic hub. Boundaries are periodically revised; check [stratigraphy.org/chart](https://www.stratigraphy.org/chart) for the current chart.