

Dinosaur Timeline

Three geological periods, with rounded boundary ages in millions of years ago (Ma).

Period	Boundary ages	Read the evidence
Triassic	251.9-201.4 Ma	Dinosaurs appeared during the Late Triassic, alongside other reptile groups.
Jurassic	201.4-143.1 Ma	Sauropods and many theropods diversified. Stegosaurus lived in the Late Jurassic.
Cretaceous	143.1-66.0 Ma	T. rex lived in the Late Cretaceous. Non-avian dinosaurs disappeared at the K-Pg boundary; birds survived.

Try it: subtract the younger boundary from the older one. Which period lasted longest? Why could T. rex and Stegosaurus never meet?

Suggested ages 10-14; allow 10-15 minutes with a teacher. Rows are not drawn to a time scale. Boundary ages can be revised; the period is not defined by a rounded number alone.

Sources / continue reading

[ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart, June 2026](#)

[NHM: dinosaur origins](#) | [NHM: Stegosaurus](#) | [NHM: Tyrannosaurus](#)

[NHM: surviving dinosaur lineages](#)

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