

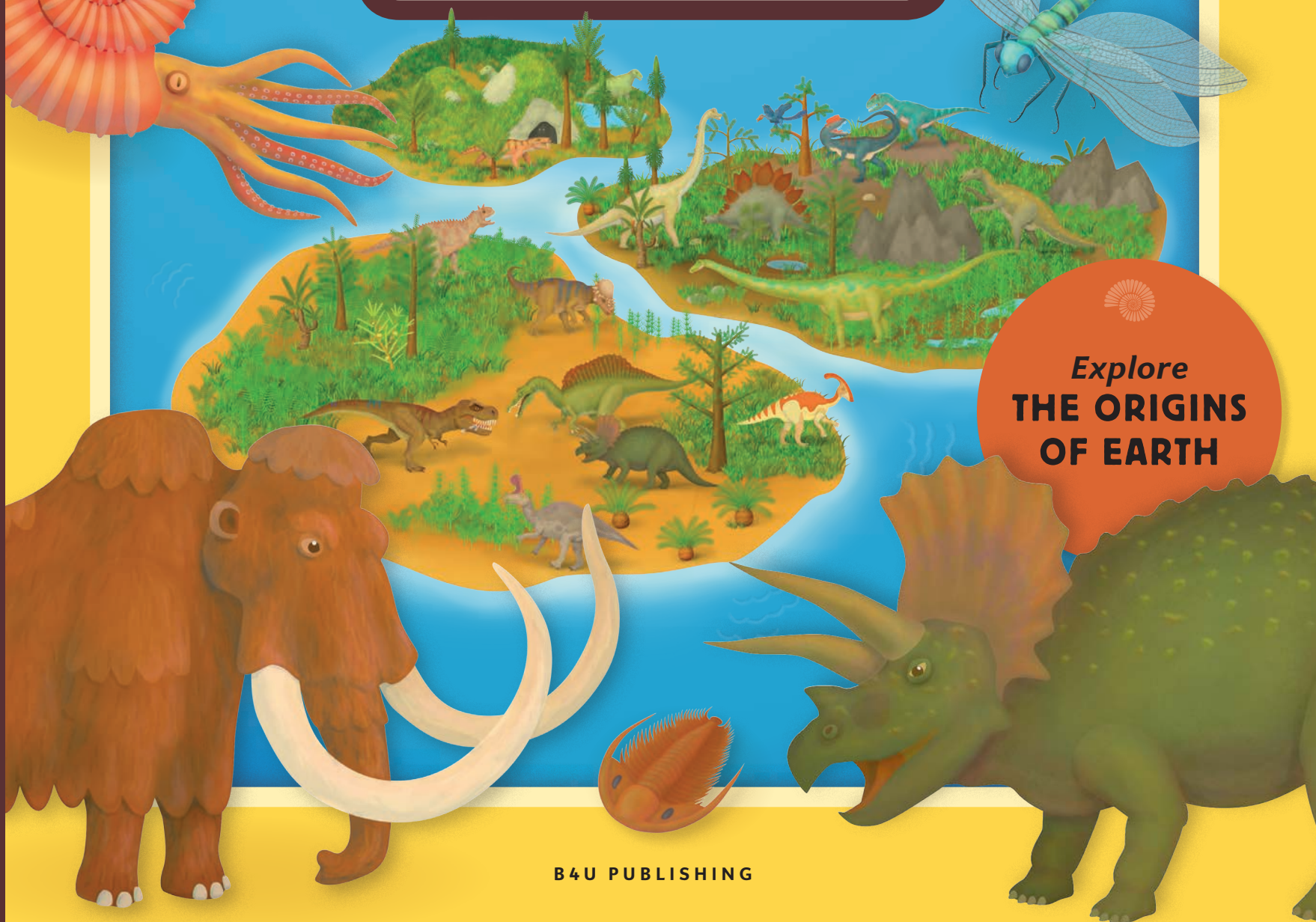


*Atlas of the* **PREHISTORIC WORLD**



# *Atlas of the* **PREHISTORIC WORLD**

Tomáš Tůma • Oldřich Růžička

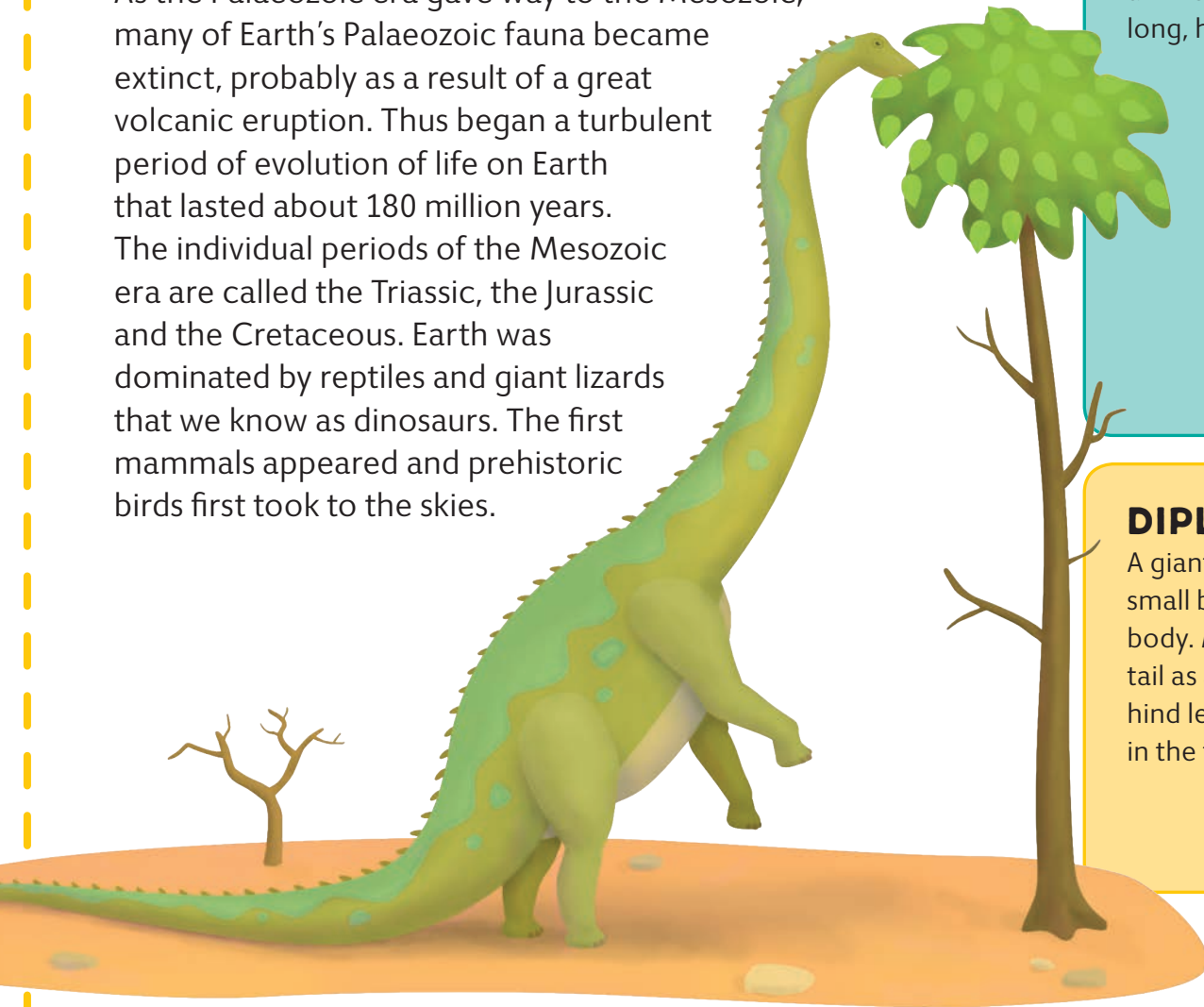


*Explore*  
**THE ORIGINS  
OF EARTH**

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# Mesozoic era

As the Palaeozoic era gave way to the Mesozoic, many of Earth's Palaeozoic fauna became extinct, probably as a result of a great volcanic eruption. Thus began a turbulent period of evolution of life on Earth that lasted about 180 million years. The individual periods of the Mesozoic era are called the Triassic, the Jurassic and the Cretaceous. Earth was dominated by reptiles and giant lizards that we know as dinosaurs. The first mammals appeared and prehistoric birds first took to the skies.



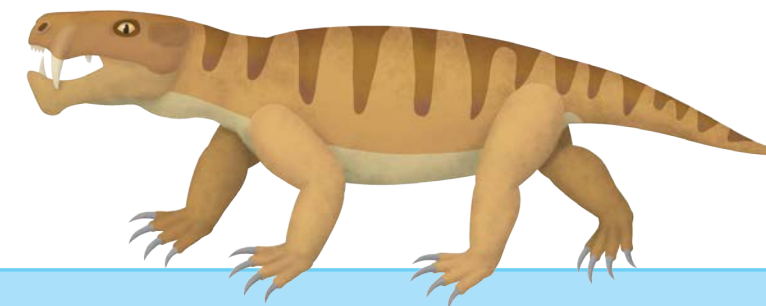
## AMMONITE

Creature with a chalky shell that resembles that of today's snail. The shells of some ammonites were two metres long, however.



## DIPLODOCUS

A giant herbivore that had a very small brain in spite of its enormous body. *Diplodocus* used its massive tail as a prop when standing on its hind legs to graze on vegetation in the treetops.

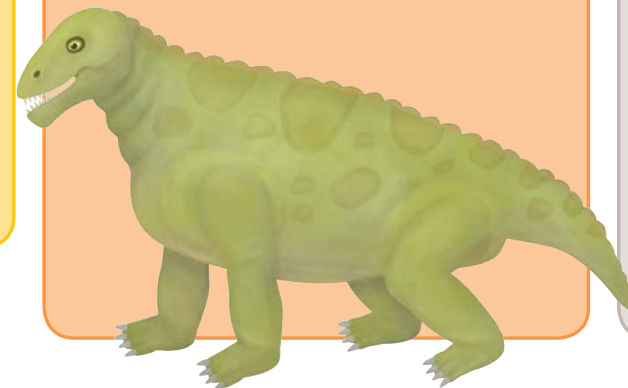


## THERIODONT

This extinct mammal-like reptile was a predatory carnivore.

## MOSCHOPS

A large herbivore that is an ancestor of the mammal. Although it was less than two metres tall, it weighed almost two tons. As it fed only on plants, because of its weight it spent most of the day feasting on the leaves of shrubs and trees.



## ALLOSAURUS

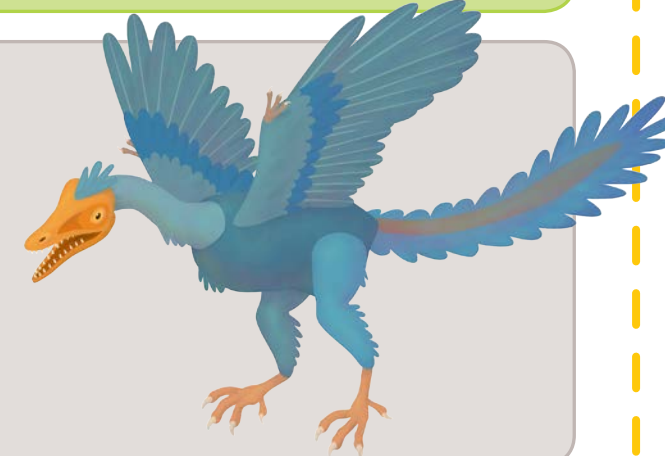
This nine-metre-long carnivorous dinosaur weighed nearly three tons. Its jaws were relatively weak for its size, but the powerful muscles of its neck enabled it to drive its teeth into its prey like a lethal axe. It was among the most dangerous creatures of prehistoric times.



As the Palaeozoic era gave way to the Mesozoic, many of Earth's life forms became extinct.

## ARCHAEOPTERYX

An encounter with this ancestor of the bird wouldn't have ended well. Although it was only about 50 centimetres tall, its beak concealed some very sharp teeth.



### Triassic period

250 – 201 million years ago



Earth in the early Mesozoic



volcanic eruption and widespread extinction of fauna



first mammals



first dinosaurs



dramatic evolution of plantlife



first birds



Land begins to divide into individual continents.



Dry land is dominated by large dinosaurs.



Pterosaurs rule the skies.



first butterflies



In Cretaceous period individual continents form to completion.



New tree species appear.



An asteroid falls to Earth and much flora and fauna becomes extinct.



Earth at the end of the Mesozoic

### Jurassic period

201 – 145 million years ago

### Cretaceous period

145 – 66 million years ago

### BRACHIOSAURUS

One of the largest animals ever to walk the Earth, it was as tall as a four-storey building and weighed over thirty tons. Although its dimensions inspire great respect, it was a harmless herbivore.



### STEGOSAURUS

A peaceable dinosaur, it lived on termites. When under attack it was able to defend itself very effectively with the spikes on the end of its tail. On its back were two rows of large plates, which helped control its body temperature.



### IGUANODON

Moved about on four or two legs. Its body was covered with small plates, which served as armour in protection against its enemies. Its thumb ended in a spike, with which it attacked its foes. A herbivore.



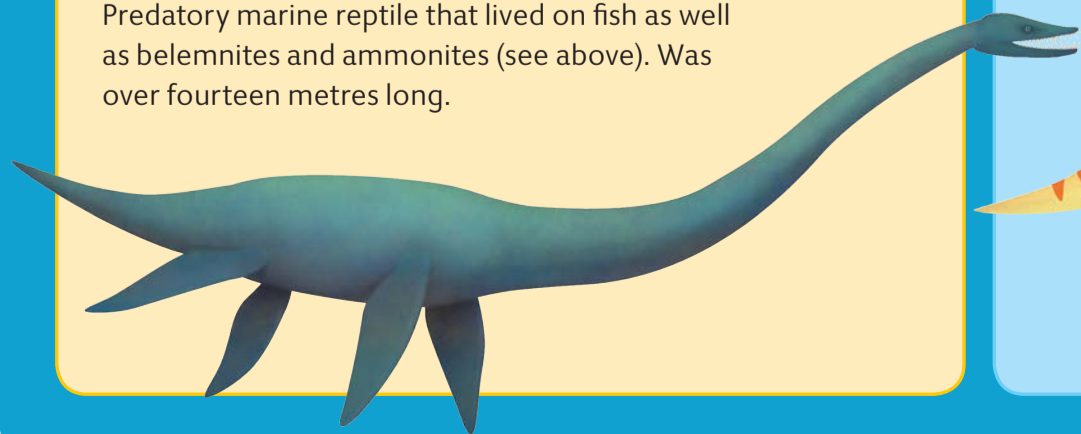
### CARNOTAURUS

Known as the 'flesh-eating bull' for the two horn-like growths above its eyes. Walked on two legs, was about nine metres tall and probably fed only on carrion.



### ELASMOSAURUS

Predatory marine reptile that lived on fish as well as belemnites and ammonites (see above). Was over fourteen metres long.



## Mesozoic era

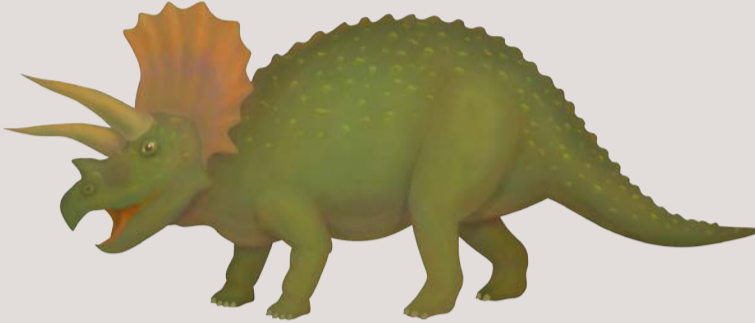
### PTERANODON

A large pterosaur with a wingspan of almost nine metres, it ruled the skies of the Mesozoic era. It fed mainly on fish.



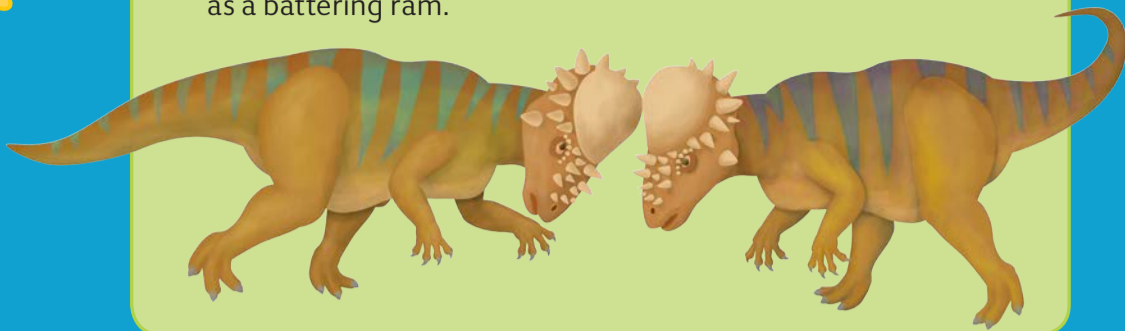
### TRICERATOPS

A herbivore that was three metres tall and weighed nine tons. Used the jaws of its narrow beak like pincers to grasp and pluck at small branches and twigs.



### PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS

A herbivore that was five metres long and weighed two tons, when battling for territory it used its armoured skull as a battering ram.



### TSINTAOSAURUS

A member of the hadrosaur family, with a characteristic 'duck bill' snout with a battery of powerful teeth that it used to feed on small branches and twigs.



### BELEMNITE

Creature reminiscent of today's squid that lived in the seas of the Mesozoic era. Became extinct in the Cenozoic era.



### TYRANOSAURUS REX

One of the most dangerous creatures of the Mesozoic and one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs, it had excellent vision and an enhanced sense of smell, and it could move at speeds of up to forty kilometres per hour. It was a fine hunter, with enormous power in its jaws.



### VELOCIRAPTOR

This dinosaur was about two metres long and weighed about twenty kilograms. It had feathered legs and preyed on small animals.



### PARASAUROLOPHUS

The hollow crest on its head served to amplify the sounds it made in communication. It was a herbivore.



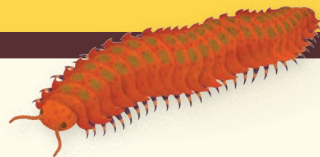
### SPINOSAURUS

Two-metre-long spines grew out of the skin of the back of this huge, carnivorous predator. These helped to regulate its body temperature. *Spinosaurus* was over fifteen metres long and weighed up to nine tons.



## PLANTS





FOR AGE

6+

# Atlas of the PREHISTORIC WORLD

Illustrated by Tomáš Tůma

Written by Tomáš Tůma, Oldřich Růžička

The book is intended for all young readers with an interest in prehistoric animals and plants and the evolution of life on planet Earth. From the origins of Earth and the first simple life forms right up to modern-day humans, you'll find here all you need to know about the evolution of life on Earth. Every period has its own chapter and a large fold-out map where you'll find full-colour illustrations of representatives of the animal and plant kingdoms characteristic of a particular time. A special space is devoted to prehistoric lizards, too.

## INSIDE YOU'LL FIND:

- the origins of the Earth and forms of life
- individual eras from the Paleozoic to the Quaternary
- animals and plants from all continents and from each era
- human evolution
- entertaining, full-colour illustrations
- dinosaurs, mammoths, sabre-toothed tigers and many other creatures



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EAN



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