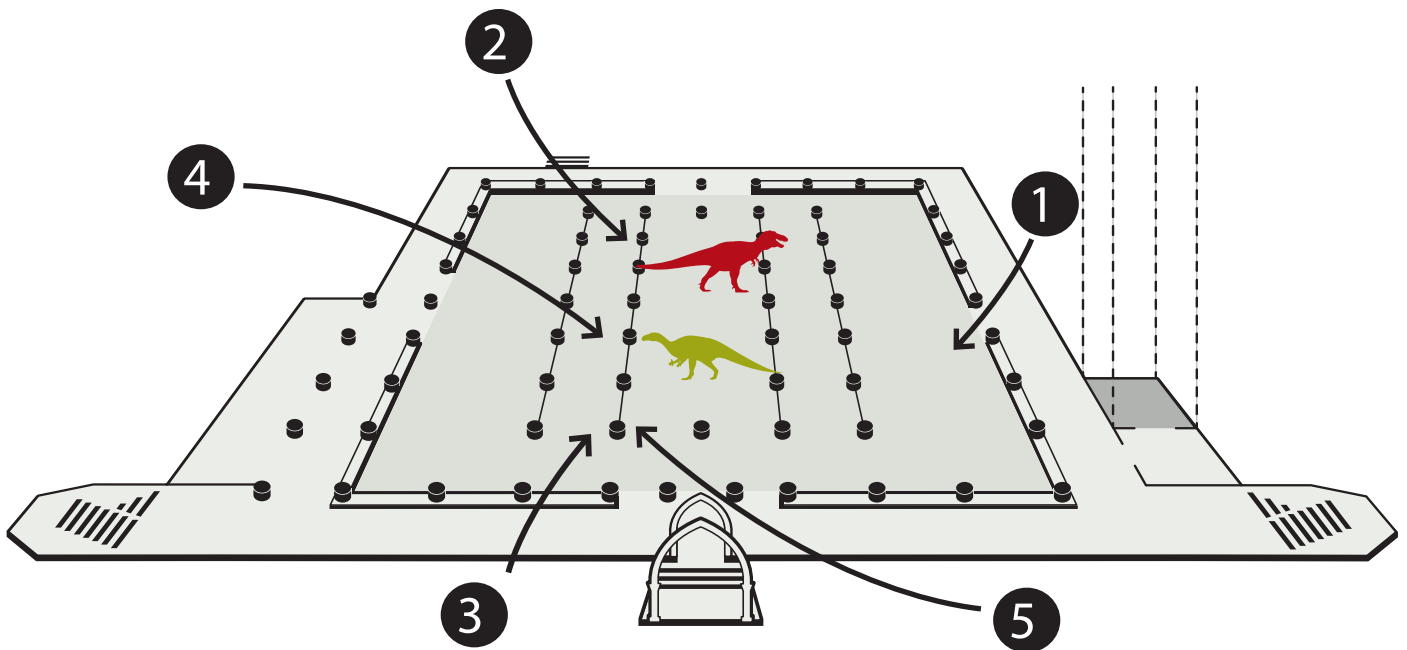


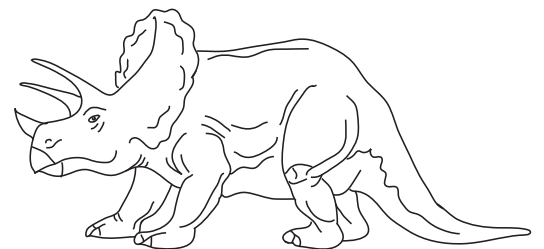
RASCALLY REPTILES

There are over 9,500 species of reptile on the planet! They come in many shapes and sizes, live all over the world and have lived on Earth for millions of years!
Follow this trail to discover some of the reptiles in the museum.



1 TOUGH TRICERATOPS

Reptiles first appeared on the Earth 260 million years ago in what was known as the Age of Reptiles, the Mesozoic Era. They were the first animals with a backbone to live completely out of the water. There were lots more reptiles around than there are living today and they were much bigger. Dinosaurs are reptiles and evolved at this time.



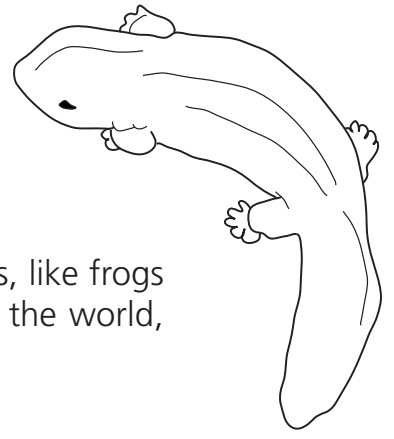
Look for the Triceratops skull. Can you spot its large horns?

The word Triceratops is Greek for 'three-horned face'. The Triceratops used its horns to protect itself from being eaten by larger dinosaurs. The Triceratops was a herbivore which means that it only ate plants.



Can you think of another animal that uses its horns to protect itself?

2 SNEAKY SALAMANDER



Look for the Giant Chinese Salamander in the museum.

Salamanders are often mistaken for reptiles but are actually amphibians, like frogs or newts. This Giant Chinese salamander is the biggest amphibian in the world, growing up to 180cm long!

So what's the difference between an amphibian and a reptile you ask?

Amphibians and reptiles are both cold-blooded but amphibians have thick, warm and moist skin. They can get dehydrated quite easily so they need to live near water where they lay their eggs. Larvae that hatch from the eggs use gills to breathe in the water, just like tadpoles. When they grow into adults they live on land and breathe through their lungs.

Reptiles have dry, scaly skin which protects them from dehydration. They lay hard shelled eggs which hatch into live young.



**Take a look in the amphibian case.
Draw your favourite amphibian in this box.**



3 CARNIVOROUS CROCODILE

Look for the Nile Crocodile in the museum.

Crocodiles are carnivores, which means they only eat meat. They have lots of sharp pointy teeth which they use to kill their prey. They can't chew their food so they swallow rocks to help break it down in their stomachs. When a crocodile loses its tooth, they can grow a replacement as many times as it needs. This is very different to humans as we can only replace our teeth once.

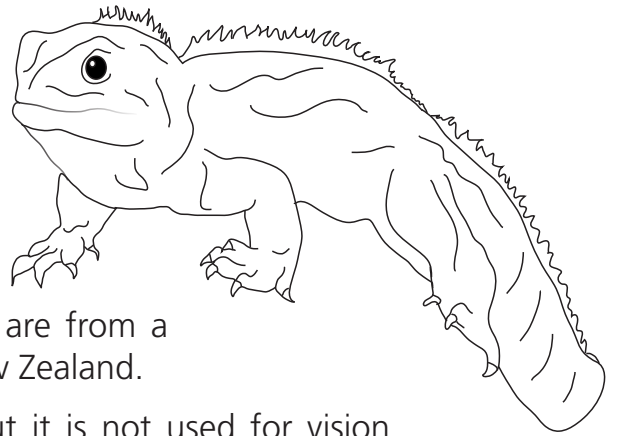


Can you find two other carnivorous (meat-eating) animals in the museum? Clue: look at their teeth!

1 _____

2 _____

4 TENACIOUS TUATARA



Look for the Tuatara in the museum.

Although tuataras look a lot like lizards, they actually are from a separate group of reptiles that can only be found in New Zealand.

Tuataras have a third eye on the top of their head but it is not used for vision. Scientists are not sure why or how they use it.



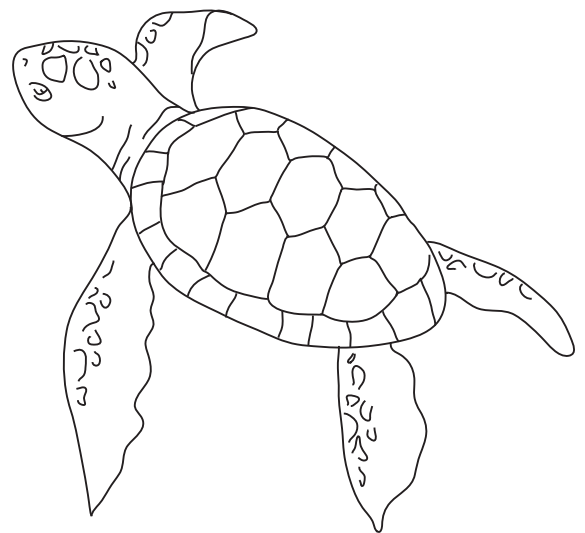
What do you think the tuatara uses its third eye for?

5 TRAVELLING TURTLES

Look for the Atlantic Loggerhead Turtle in the 'Alice in Wonderland' case.

Sea turtles spend a lot of their lives in the water. When they hatch from their egg on land, they have to make the dangerous journey to the water.

Sea turtles are reptiles that migrate. This is when animals move from one place to another at certain times of year. Sea turtles move between the place they were born and warmer waters. They can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles! Loggerhead Sea Turtles are born in Japan and then travel around 8,000 miles to Mexico to feed and mature.



Which of these places do you think you would end up in if you travelled 8,000 miles from Oxford?

- Chile, South America Switzerland, Europe Egypt, Africa

Ask the front desk for the answer!

RASCALLY REPTILES

Now take this trail home and colour in these reptiles.

