HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN COMICS

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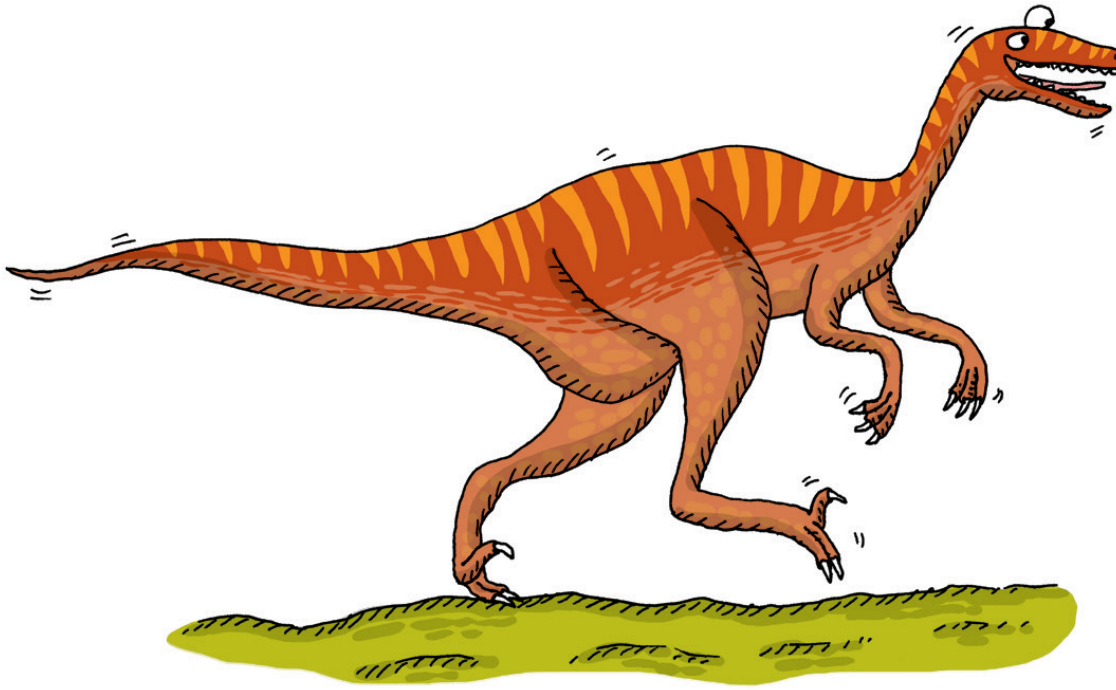
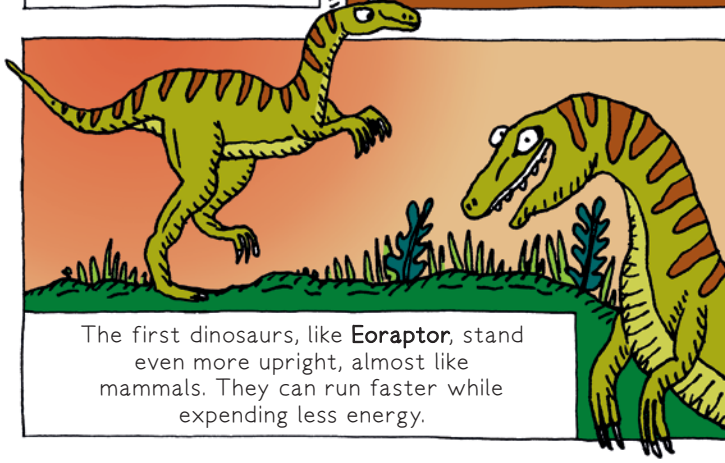
by Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu • illustrated by Adrienne Barman



HOLIDAY HOUSE NEW YORK

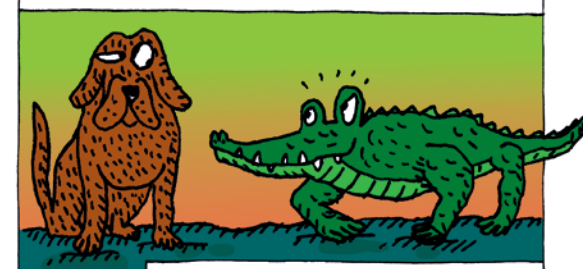
Some of the archosaurs are smaller, and more and more **bipedal**.

Marasuchus feeds on insects and small animals. Its forefeet may be able to grasp its prey!



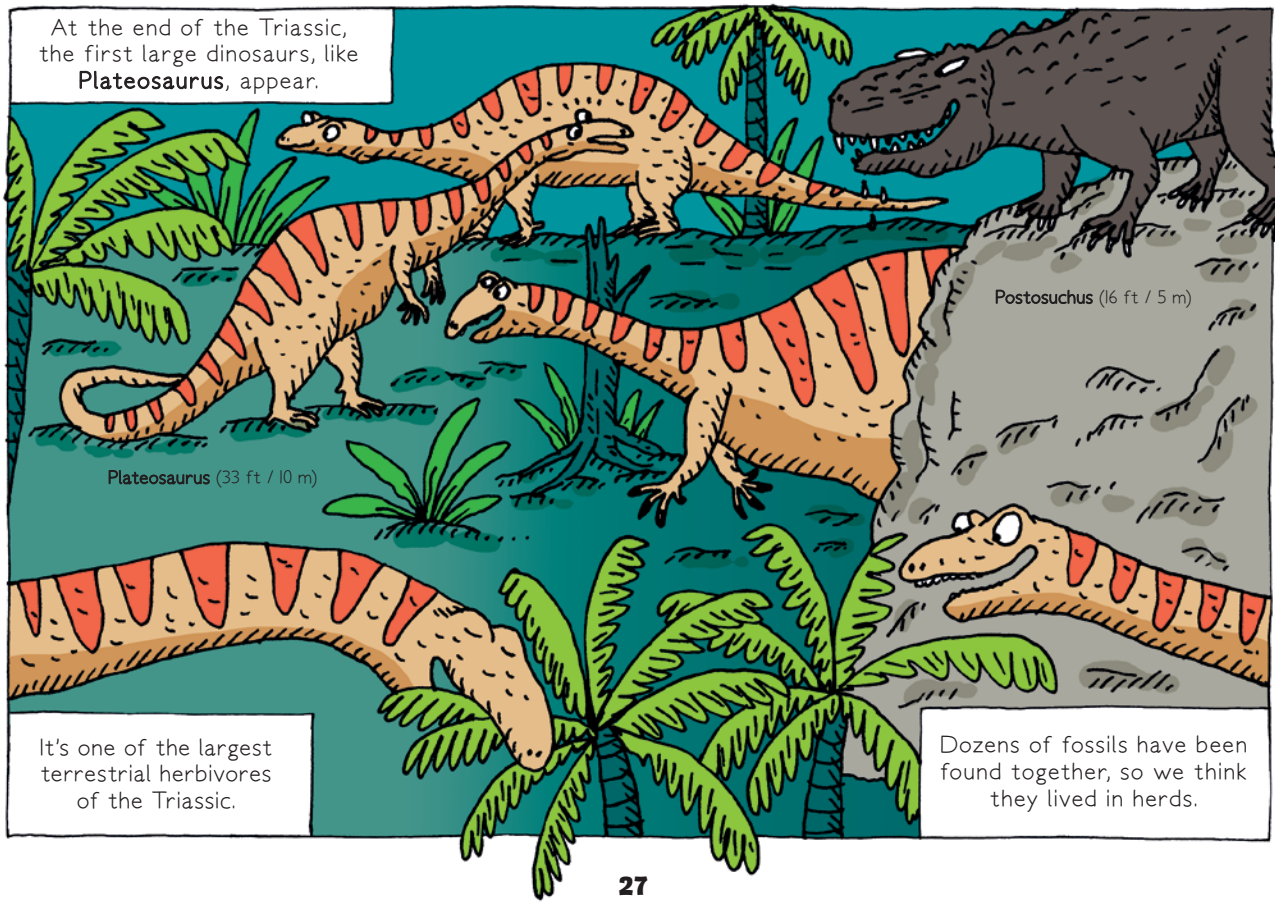
The first dinosaurs, like **Eoraptor**, stand even more upright, almost like mammals. They can run faster while expending less energy.

More like a dog than a crocodile!



This posture may be what gives them an advantage over the other archosaurs.

At the end of the Triassic, the first large dinosaurs, like **Plateosaurus**, appear.



It's one of the largest terrestrial herbivores of the Triassic.

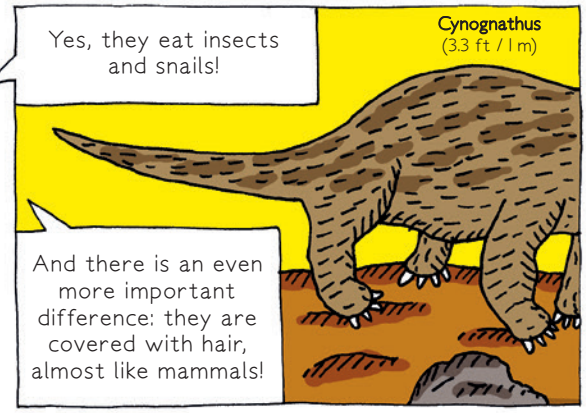
Dozens of fossils have been found together, so we think they lived in herds.

THE FIRST MAMMALS

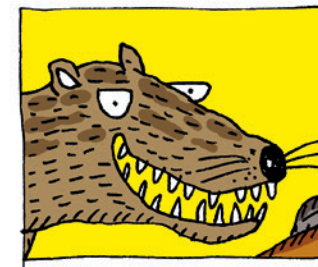
Triassic: 252 to 201 million years ago

During the Triassic, the **archosaurs** face competition from the **cynodonts**. They are carnivores too, but much smaller.

Yes, they eat insects and snails!

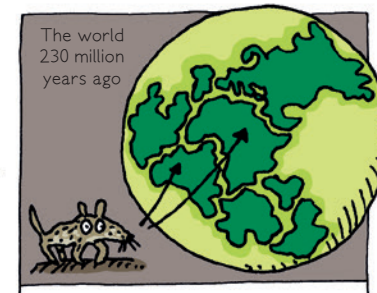


And there is an even more important difference: they are covered with hair, almost like mammals!

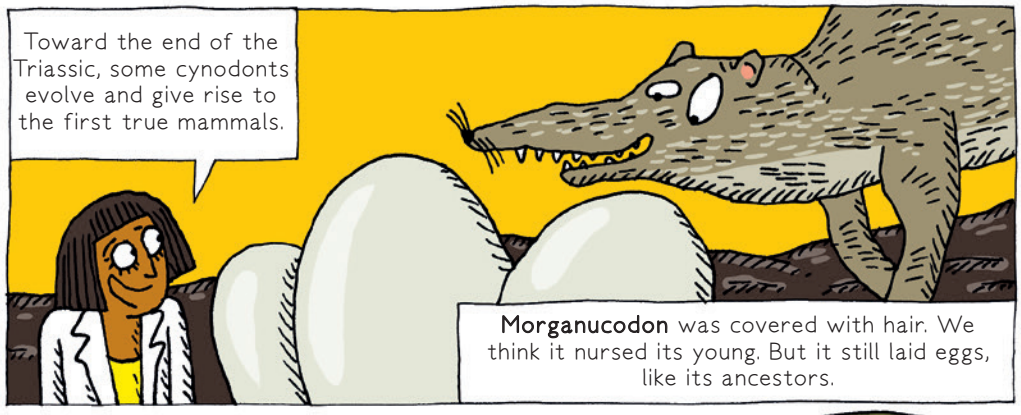


Cynognathus has a large head and the teeth of a predator. Its name means "dog jaw."

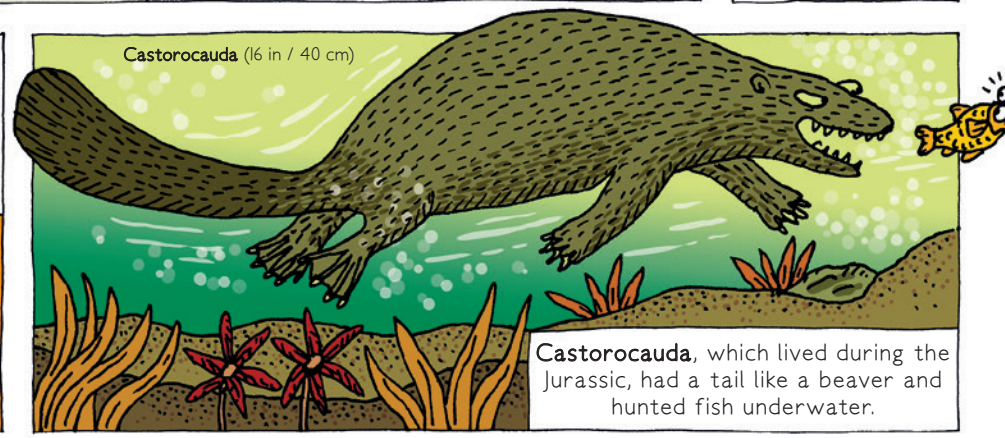
It's not a dog! It's not even a mammal. Its feet are splayed wide apart, more like those of a reptile.



It has been found in the Americas and in Africa, which shows that those continents were joined at the time.



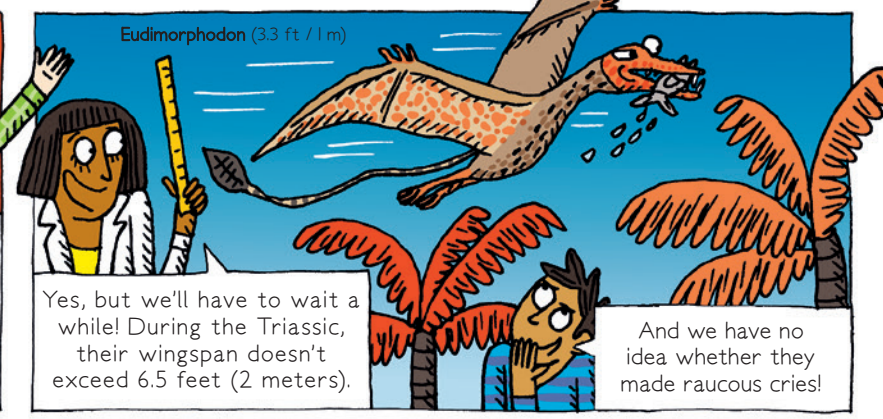
Morganucodon was covered with hair. We think it nursed its young. But it still laid eggs, like its ancestors.

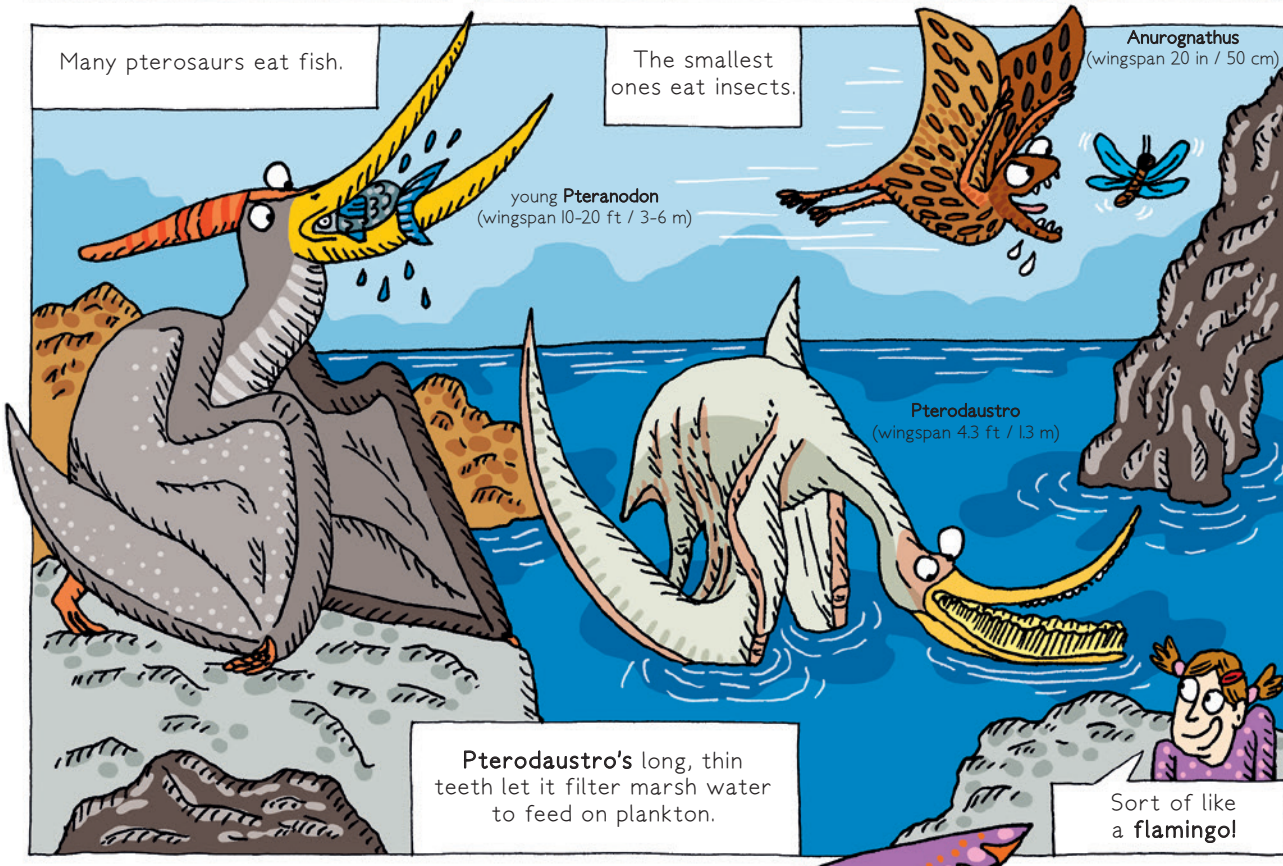


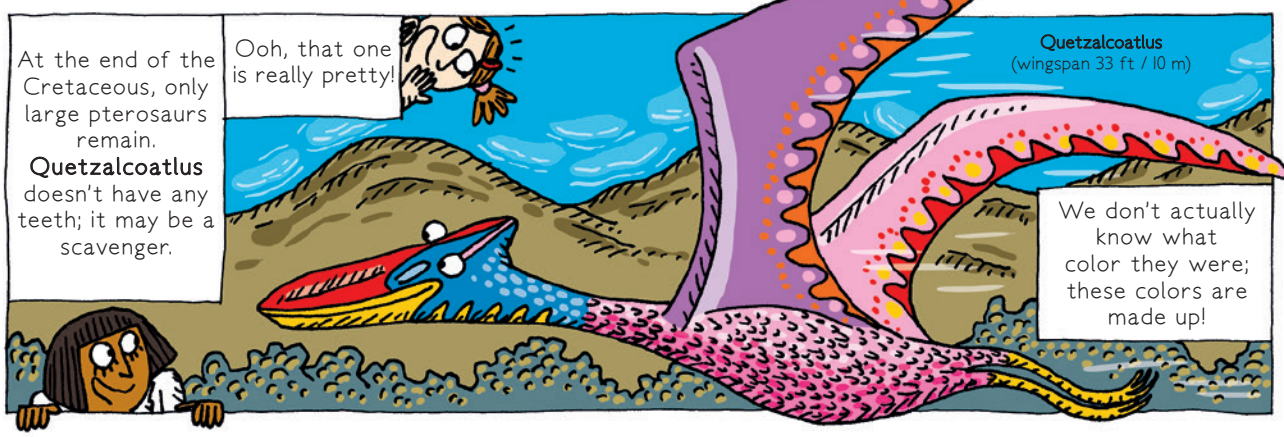
Castorocauda, which lived during the Jurassic, had a tail like a beaver and hunted fish underwater.

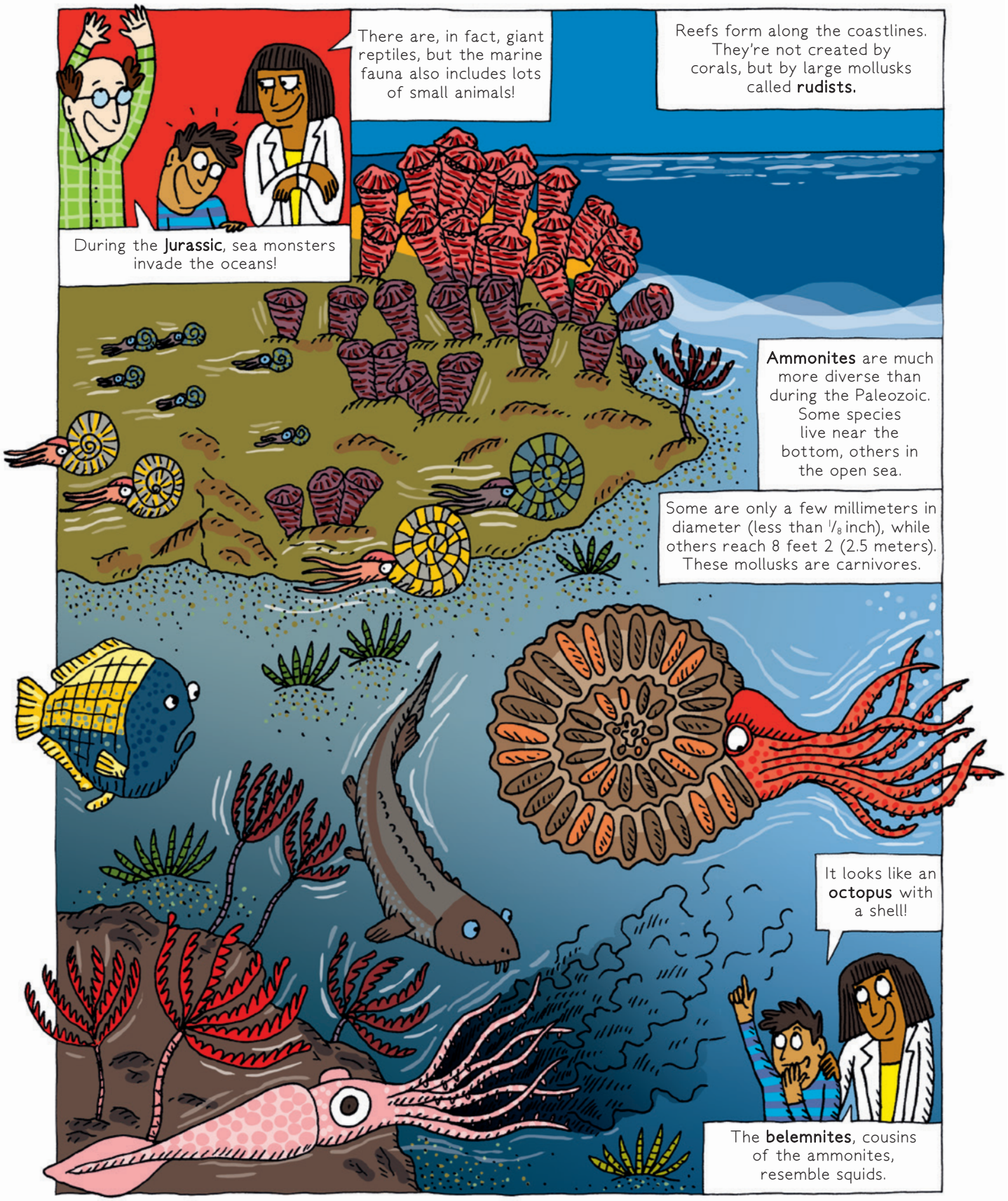
THE PTEROSAURS

The **pterosaurs** make their appearance. The air is filled with their raucous cries, and soon flying reptiles the size of airplanes darken the skies of the **Mesozoic Era**.

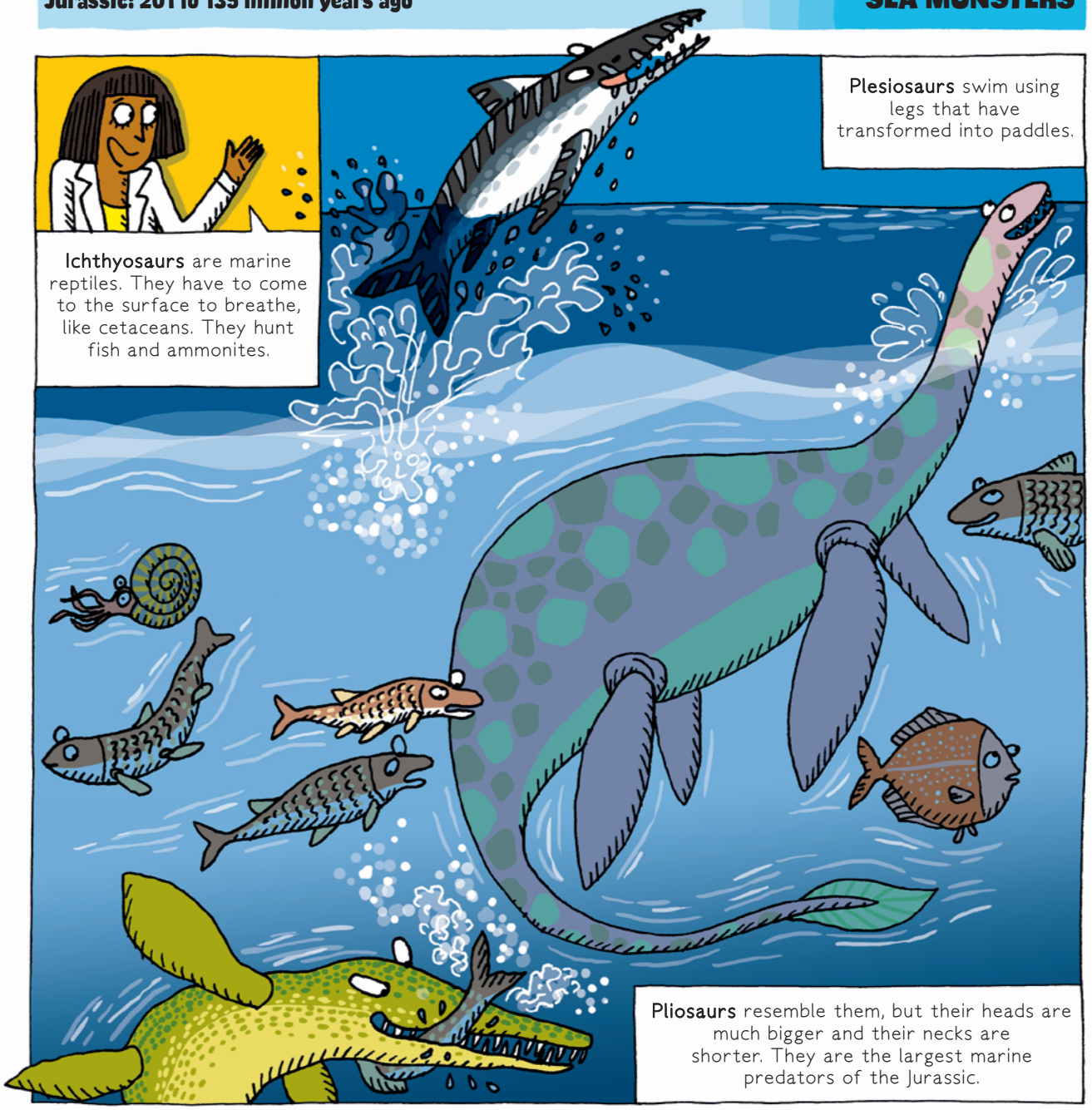







During the **Jurassic**, sea monsters invade the oceans!
There are, in fact, giant reptiles, but the marine fauna also includes lots of small animals!
Reefs form along the coastlines. They're not created by corals, but by large mollusks called **rudists.**
Ammonites are much more diverse than during the Paleozoic. Some species live near the bottom, others in the open sea.
Some are only a few millimeters in diameter (less than 1/8 inch), while others reach 8 feet 2 (2.5 meters). These mollusks are carnivores.
It looks like an **octopus** with a shell!
The **belemnites**, cousins of the ammonites, resemble squids.

SEA MONSTERS



THE ORNITHISCHIANS

Jurassic: 201 to 135 million years ago

The dinosaurs diversify more and more. We know of more than 1,000 different species.

And there were many that didn't leave fossils.

Or maybe we haven't found them yet!

Iguanodon (33 ft / 10 m)

One of the most diverse groups is that of the **ornithischians.**

Uh . . . birds?

No, it means "bird-hipped," because of the shape of their pelvic bones.

The **iguanodons** are quadrupeds, but they can easily stand on their hind legs. Their front legs are much shorter than the rear ones.

Pachycephalosaurus (16 ft / 5 m)

The **pachycephalosaurs** are bipeds. Their skull bones are extremely thick. We think the males fought by butting heads.

Like **rams!**

The **ceratopsians** have one or more horns, and a crest. We think it serves as a display, either to frighten competitors or to attract a mate.

Triceratops (26 ft / 8 m)

All of these dinosaurs lay eggs.

Ankylosaurus (25 ft / 7.5 m)

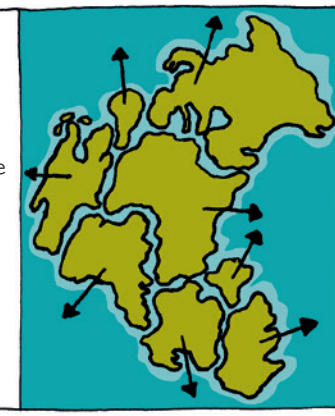
The **ankylosaurs** are massive quadrupeds, with bodies protected by bony plates. They often have a big bony ball at the end of their tail.

Like a knight's mace!

THE EPIC OF THE STEGOSAURS

At the beginning of the Jurassic, **Pangaea**, the single continent, begins to break up.

Earth's crust is dragged apart by the movement of the molten rock several miles beneath our feet! The dinosaurs are carried along as if they're on rafts!

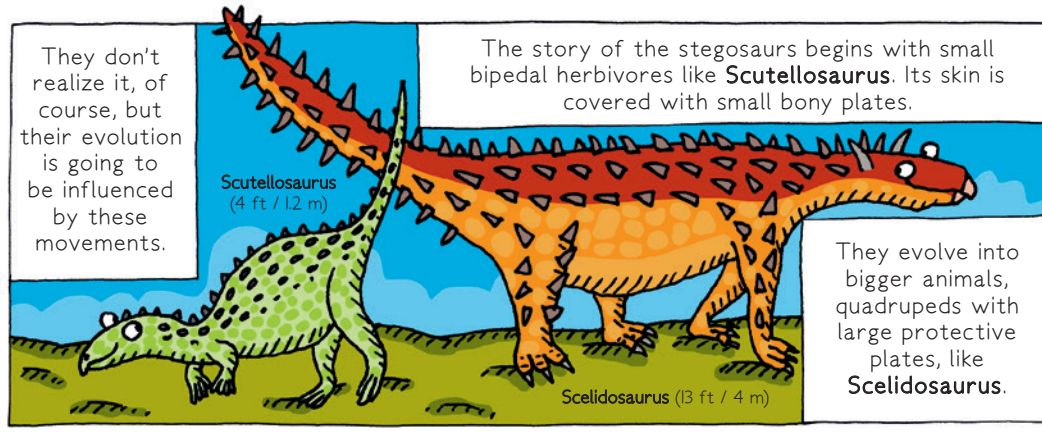


These rafts are huge, and very slow. They move an inch or so a year for millions of years.

So what happens to the dinosaurs?

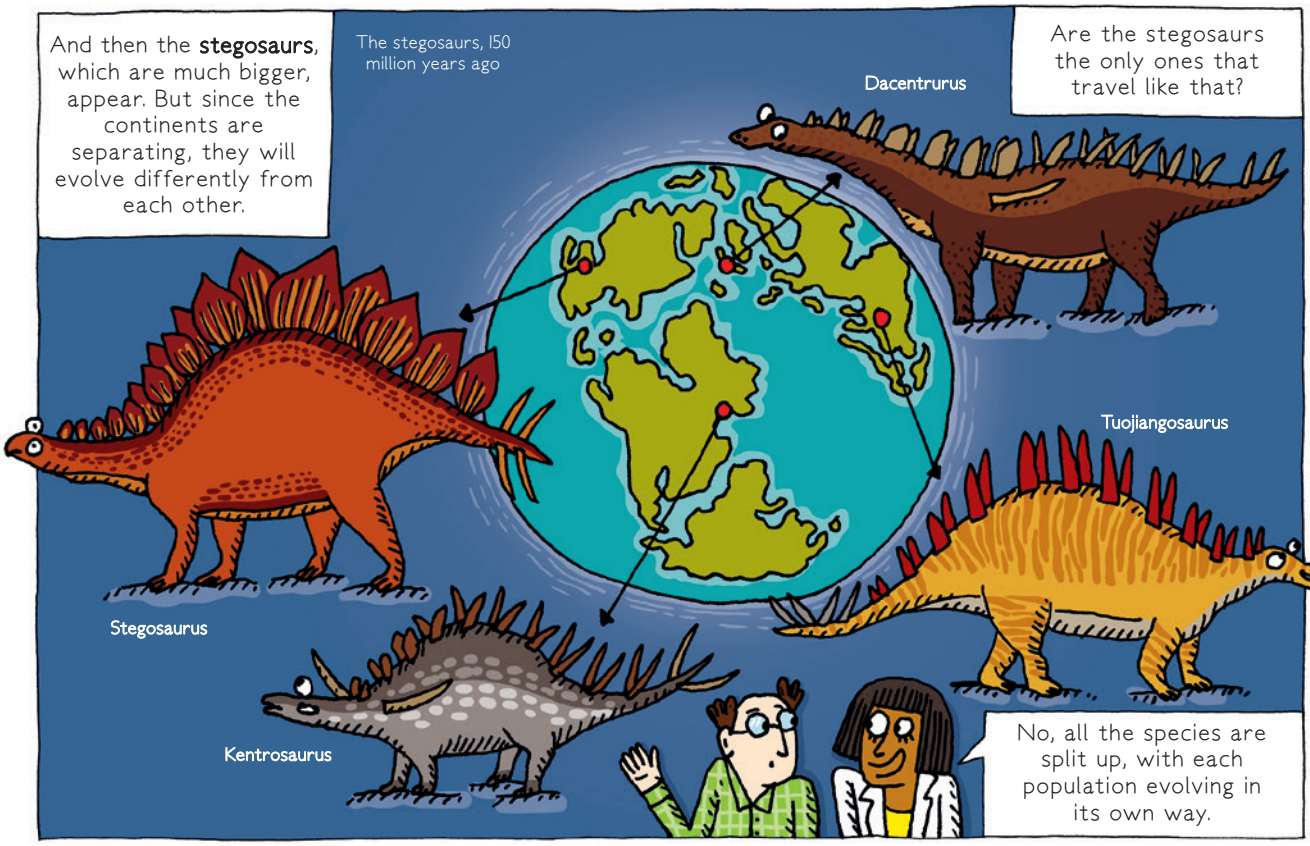
They don't realize it, of course, but their evolution is going to be influenced by these movements.

The story of the stegosaurs begins with small bipedal herbivores like **Scutellosaurus**. Its skin is covered with small bony plates.



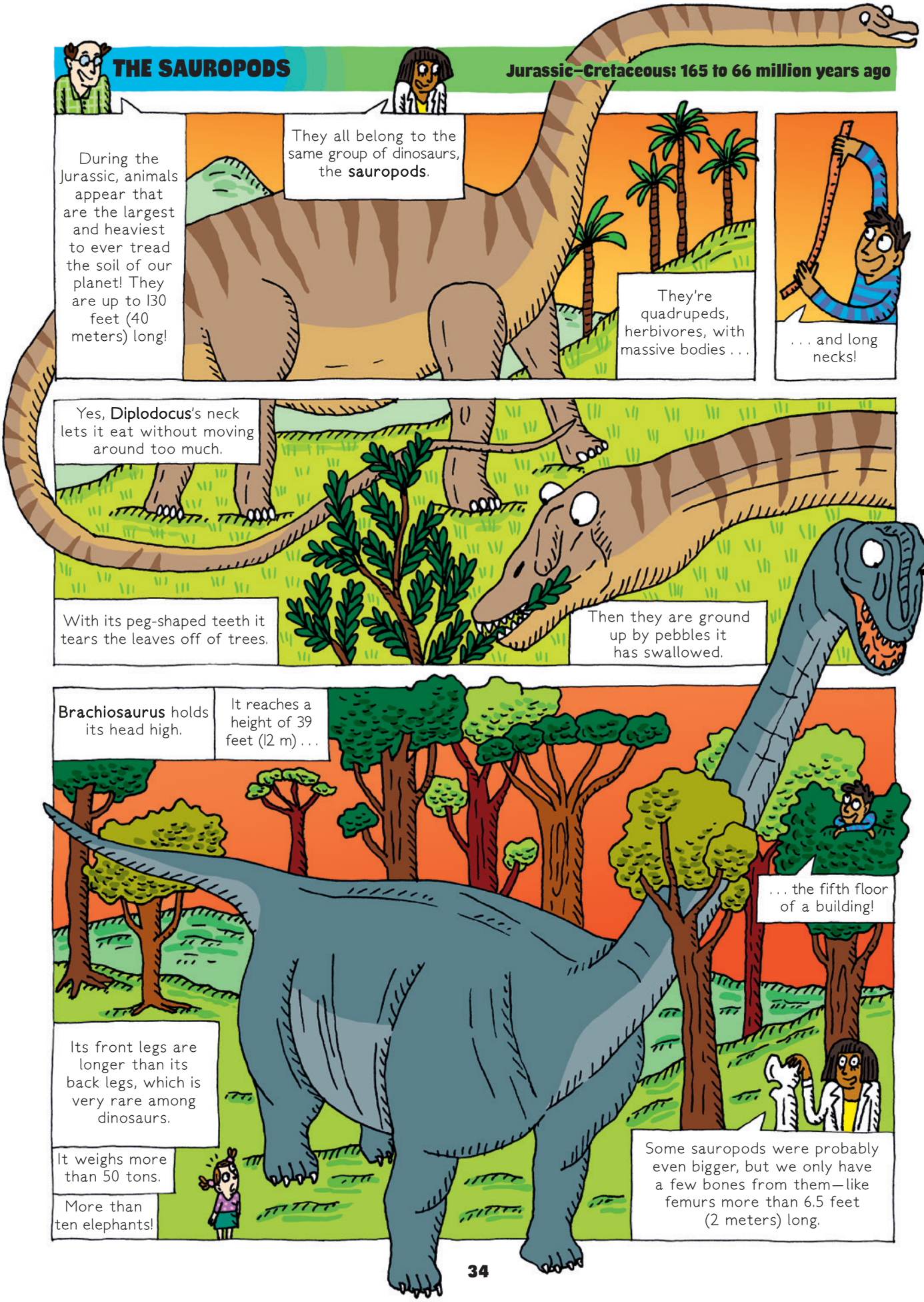
They evolve into bigger animals, quadrupeds with large protective plates, like **Scelidosaurus**.

And then the **stegosaurs**, which are much bigger, appear. But since the continents are separating, they will evolve differently from each other.



Are the stegosaurs the only ones that travel like that?

No, all the species are split up, with each population evolving in its own way.


THE SAUROPODS
Jurassic–Cretaceous: 165 to 66 million years ago
During the Jurassic, animals appear that are the largest and heaviest to ever tread the soil of our planet! They are up to 130 feet (40 meters) long!
They all belong to the same group of dinosaurs, the **sauropods**.
They're quadrupeds, herbivores, with massive bodies . . .
. . . and long necks!
Yes, **Diplodocus**'s neck lets it eat without moving around too much.
With its peg-shaped teeth it tears the leaves off of trees.
Then they are ground up by pebbles it has swallowed.
Brachiosaurus holds its head high.
It reaches a height of 39 feet (12 m) . . .
. . . the fifth floor of a building!
Its front legs are longer than its back legs, which is very rare among dinosaurs.
It weighs more than 50 tons.
More than ten elephants!
Some sauropods were probably even bigger, but we only have a few bones from them—like femurs more than 6.5 feet (2 meters) long.