

One of the most recognisable of dinosaurs due to the 17 bony plates that were embedded in its back.

The plates were not directly attached to the skeleton, instead arising from the skin and were actually quite soft meaning it was less likely they were for protection.

The largest plates were found over the animal's hips and measured up to 60cm wide and 60cm tall.

The plates are called osteoderms, bony-cored scales, similar to those seen in a lot of lizards and crocodiles today (shown left).

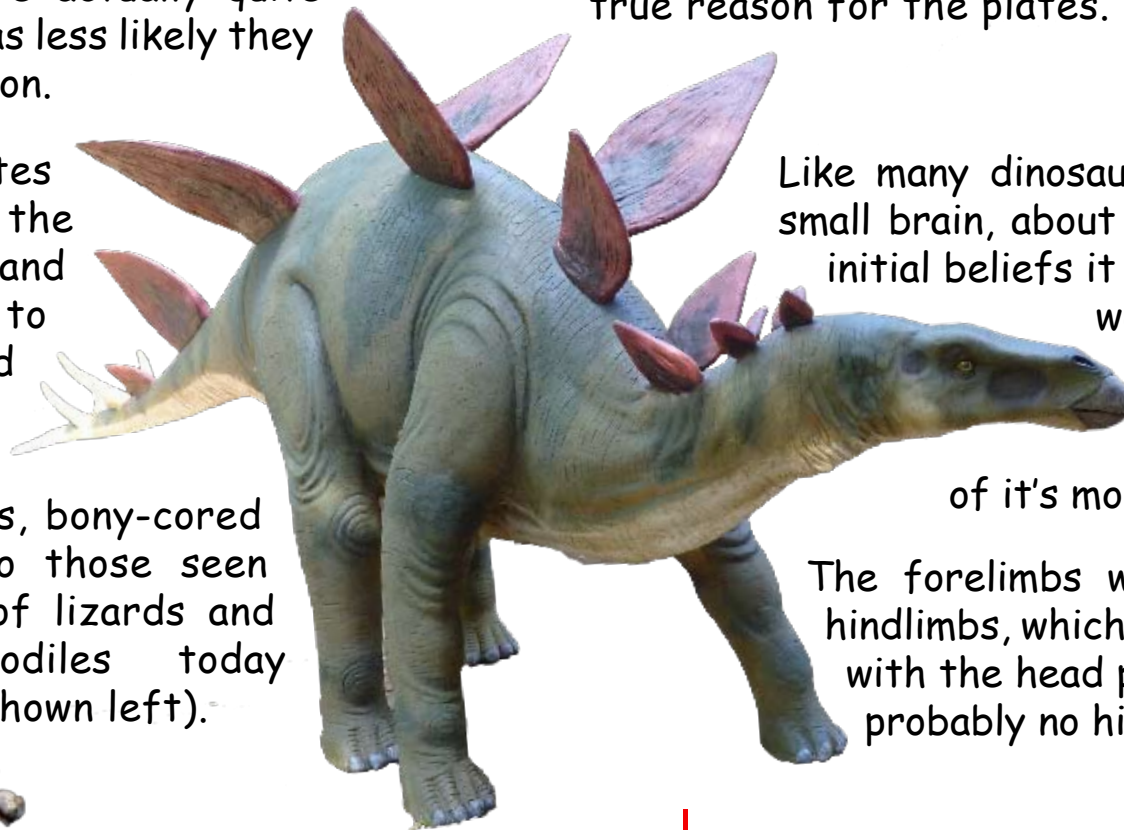
The spikes on the end of the tail were up to 3 foot long! The main function of these spikes would have been defense.

# Stegosaurus

meaning

"Roofed or Plated Lizard"

Scientists have never agreed on the true reason for the plates.



Like many dinosaur species Stegosaurus had a small brain, about the size of a walnut, despite initial beliefs it is now thought that dinosaurs were very intelligent.

It had a toothless beak with small teeth towards the back of its mouth used to chew its food.

The forelimbs were much shorter than the hindlimbs, which resulted in an unusual posture with the head positioned relatively low down, probably no higher than 1 metre.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Diet	Herbivore
Average body length	Head to tail: 9-12m. Height: 4m tall.
Average weight	Estimates up to 5,000 kg
Time on Earth	150-155 million years ago

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
This is not a full size model.

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the Stegosaurus

LEAST CONCERN
NEAR THREATENED
VULNERABLE
ENDANGERED
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
EXTINCT IN THE WILD
EXTINCT

**THIS SPECIES HAS BEEN ASSESSED AS *EXTINCT* IUCN RED LIST**