

TRICERATOPS FACT SHEET

Eating habits: Vegetarian

Length: 26 to 29.5 feet

Height: 9.5 to 9.8 feet

Weight: 13,000 to 26,000 lb.

Habitat: Central America

The Triceratops family is one of the most famous and well-known dinosaur families. The Triceratops family included various dinosaurs with some common traits.

All Triceratops family members had three horns on their heads, which is why they received their names.



“Tri” means three, “ceras” means face, and “tops” means horn. Therefore, Triceratops means a head with three horns.

Some paleontologists estimate that it would walk at a pace of 6 MPH, and when running it could reach 15.5 MPH.

The Triceratops’ head was built like a sharp beak that helped the dinosaur pull plants and weeds.

Its mouth had two lines of teeth on each side. Each line included between 38 and 40 teeth, which helped the dinosaur chew on plants and weeds.

Its head was built of strong and large bones, including the crown on the back of its head. Wide and strong muscles covered these bones.

Paleontologists believe that the Triceratops’ horns and crown had several purposes:

- Protection from carnivores such as the tyrannosaur Rex
- Communication means between members of the Triceratops herd
- A means to fight other males for females or territory (similar to habits of the modern deer). Studies show that the Triceratops could merge their horns in order to fight each other. Unlike modern animals, the Triceratops often physically hurt each other in such fights
- A means of wooing females
- A reflection of position in hierarchy
- A means of adjustment of body temperature

The Triceratops is one of the most studied dinosaurs by experts because he was the most common in North America when the dinosaurs were extinct. Experts have found many Triceratops skeletons of different ages that depict different stages of the Triceratops’ life. This way, experts have been able to study and understand the dinosaur’s development.