

## Junior Paleontologists Journal – Week 5



Welcome back Junior Paleontologists!

### Dinosaur Detectives:

Did you come up with an idea on the flying dinosaur?



**Answer:** That was a full-size statue of *Seismosaurus* being airlifted by helicopter from a barn where it was built, to an outdoor museum in Germany. The statue measures about 150 feet from tip of the snout to tip of tail, and that is more than 4 school busses long! I was there to watch it being moved.

**This Week's Dinosaur:**

Everybody knows *Triceratops*. It is a horned dinosaur from the Cretaceous Period. Its name means “three-horned face.”

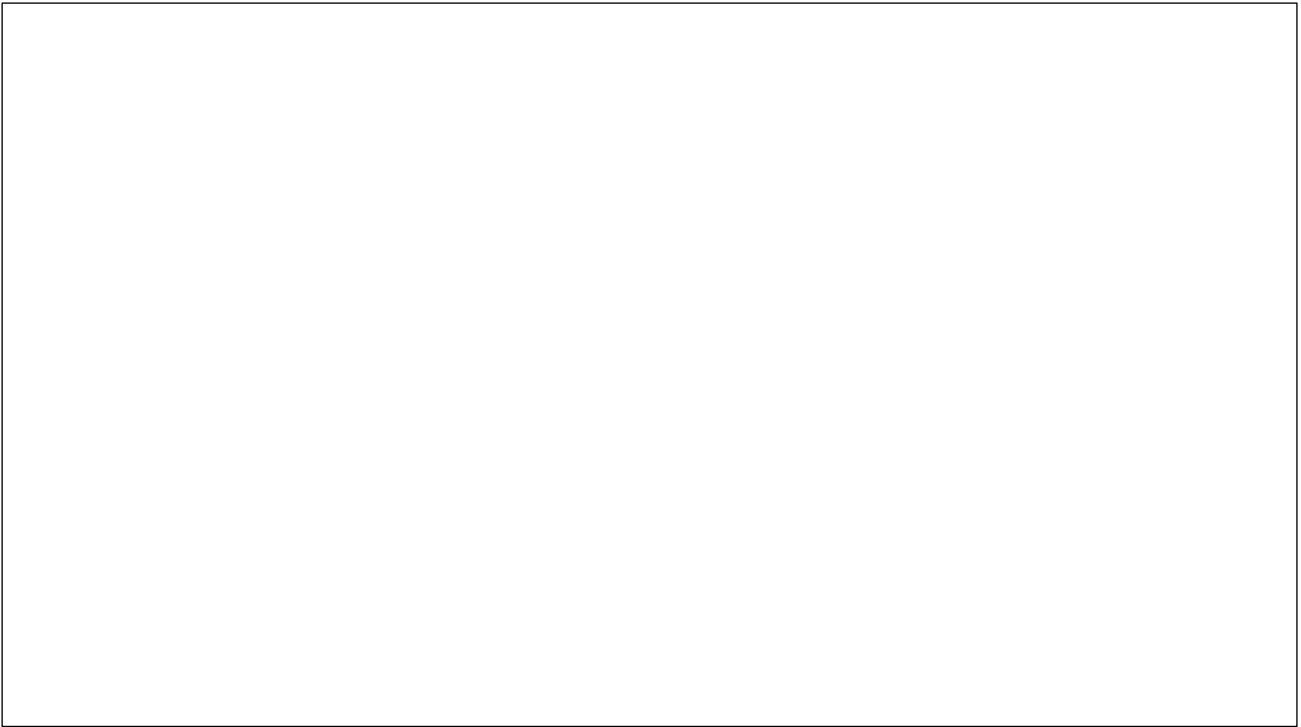
The horned dinosaur that lived in our area was *Pentaceratops*. “Penta” means “five.”

**Dinosaur Detectives:** Can you figure out what “*Pentaceratops*” means? Yes! It means “five horned face,” for the five horns: two big ones behind the eyes, two small ones near the cheeks, and one big one over the nose. Now say “PENT-uh-SAIR-uh-TOPS.”



This is a statue of *Pentaceratops* at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. It was built by a sculptor who used a skeleton at MNA to get all the details correct. It is as big as an elephant. Can you count the horns? (Hint: one horn is hidden on the other side of the head).

**Dinosaur Detectives and Artists:** Can you imagine how *Pentaceratops* walked? What animal alive today is most like *Pentaceratops*? (Hint: it lives in Africa!). Draw a picture!



Or, write a story about a day in the life of this awesome dinosaur. Or, make a drawing showing what colors *Pentaceratops* had.



Back to the lesson: That big flat area behind the horns is part of the skull we call the “frill.”

**Dinosaur Detectives:**

How do you think this frill was used by *Pentaceratops*? Write your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dinosaur Artists:** Using the skeleton in this picture and the statue from before, can you draw a *Pentaceratops* and show how it used the horns (maybe for protection) and frill? Or, can you write a story about *Pentaceratops*?

**Dinosaur Detectives:** Yesterday we asked you to think about how *Pentaceratops* used the frill and horns.



Answer: The horns were for protection from giant predators. The frill was probably used like a radiator to gather heat or get rid of heat and maybe to make it look even bigger!

Now check out the jaws of *Pentaceratops*. That big hole above the beak is the nose. Inside the mouth were lots of teeth for chopping plants. But it had no teeth at the front of the mouth. Instead it had a beak like on a parrot.



**Dinosaur Detectives:** Can you figure out how *Pentaceratops* used the beak?

**Dinosaur artists:** Can you imagine what *Pentaceratops* ate? If you can, make a drawing that shows *Pentaceratops* eating something. Or, write a story about it.



**Dinosaur Detectives:** Did you figure out how *Pentaceratops* used the beak?



Answer: Like a parrot or a parakeet, *Pentaceratops* probably used the beak for chopping leaves and branches before chewing with the big teeth inside the mouth.

These pictures show the main enemy of *Pentaceratops*. It is a close relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Now can you imagine how *Pentaceratops* used its huge horns?



Teaser for next week:

**Dinosaur Detectives:**

*Triceratops* and *Pentaceratops* lived at the same time as *Tyrannosaurus rex* at the end of the Age of Reptiles. What happened to them? Write your answer below:

**Dinosaur Artists:** Can you imagine what happened to the dinosaurs at the end of the Age of Reptiles? Write a short story about it or draw a picture to show what happened: