















































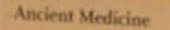


## Power of the Dragon

The dragon is sacred in Chinese tradition. It symbolizes power, happiness, good fortune, fertility, transformatio and even immortality. Two thousand years ago, the Chinese people considered the dragon the chief specie of 369 known reptiles. During the Eastern Han Dynas (AD 25-220), the dragon became a symbol of imperial power. Dragons often appear in Chinese art, ceremonies and celebrations.

For at least 3500 years, many Chinese people have believed that fossil bones are the bones of dragons, and valued them for their medicinal qualities. Most "dragon bones" sold today in herbal and apothecary shops actually belong to fossil mammals, such as mammoths and deer, from the last Ice Age; but long ago, some dragon bones also came from dinosaurs.

By tracing the sources of medicinal dragon bones, scientists have found important fossil sites, such as Zhoukoudian, near Beijing, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains the 400,000-year-old remains of Peking Man.



This 5th-century recipe by Lei Hiso describes how to prepare medicine from dragon bones:

For using dragon's bones first cook odoeous plants; buther the bones twice in hot water, pound them to powder and put this in bags of gauge. Take a couple of young swallows and, after having taken out their intentines and stomach, put the bags in the swallows and hang them over a well. After one night take the bags out of the swallows, rob the powder and mix it into medicines for strengthening the kidneys. The efficacy of such a medicine is as it were divine.

Powdered dragon bones could also be sprinkled on food or stirred into herbal tea. People still use dragon-bone powder to cure many ailments, including fever, dysentery, convolsions, ulcers, paralysis and illnesses of perguant women; and dragon-bone paste is used to treat bleeding wounds.





## My, What Big Teeth You Have! Yangchuanosaurus

"Yangchuan-area lizard" Szechuan Province, China Late Jurassic Period, 160 million years ago

When great plant eaters roamed the Earth, great meat eaters stalked them. Yangchuanosaurus patrolled the late Mesozoic world long before the terrible tyrannosaurs, thundering about on pillar-like hind legs in search of prey. Equipped with a strongly-muscled head and neck, and large, sharp teeth, Yangchuanosaurus could easily tear and rip into flesh.















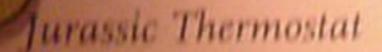
#### Mysterious Monster

## Szechuanosaurus

"Szechuan lizard", Szechuan Province, Chin Late Jurassic Period, 160 to 144 million years a

Known from only a few fossil fragments,
Szechuanosaurus appears to be a small versio
of the ferocious carnivore, Allosaurus. It has
muscular neck and head and the sharp teeth
of a large meat-eater.





## Tuojiangosaurus

"Tuo River lizard", Szechuan Province, China Late Jurassic Period, 157 to 154 million years ago

A Tuojiangosaurus is a stegosaur, a bird-hipped dinosaur with plates along the spine. The plates would have been a poor defence against predators; they likely controlled the animal's body temperature, allowing it to cool in a breeze or warm up in the sun.







Polly Want a Seed?

# Psittacosaurus

"Parrot lizard", Shandong Province, Chi Early Cretaceous Period, 135 million year

One of the smallest and earliest ceratops: (horned dinosaurs), Psittacosaurus had the characteristic parrot-like beak. But unlike ceratopsians, such as the later Protocerato and Triceratops, this dinosaur had no frill extending from the back of its skull. The sit forelegs grasped plants while the animal pit off and cracked open large, hard-shelled see and stripped off leaves. The long muscular legs helped it run from predators.





### Confuciusornis

"Confucius bird", Liaoning Province, China Early Cretaceous Period, 140 to 120 million years ago

Confuciusornis looks like a compact meateating dinosaur, but its bird-like tail with fused bones indicate that it was one of the first birds. Several fossil specimens of Confuciusornis have two long tail-feathers, suggesting that male and female birds looked different. It seems that showing off has always been a great way to attract a mate.







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