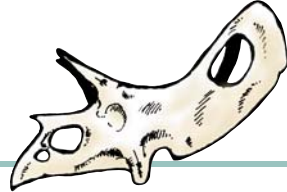


A History of Dinosaur Milestones in Montana

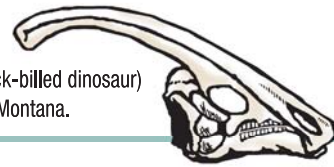


Torosaurus

One of the largest ceratopsian dinosaurs weighed in at nearly 20 tons with the frill measuring 9 feet.

Parasaurolophus walkeri

One of four species of the hadrosaurus (duck-billed dinosaur) family that could be buried in north-central Montana.



Lewis and Clark find what they imagine to be the rib of a giant fish near Pompeys Pillar. It's now believed to be a giant marine reptile from the Cretaceous period.

John Hatcher discovers a Ceratopsian near the Judith River. The horned specimen represents a new family of dinosaur.

Barnum Brown names the Ankylosaurus from some fairly complete specimens found in the Montana Hell Creek Formation.

Dinosaur nests containing numerous eggs were found in "colonies," suggesting that some dinosaur species bred together like modern-day seabirds.

Paleontologists unearth a Tyrannosaurus rex. With its complete skull, it becomes one of only six such specimens ever found.

Scientists airlift the skull of a torosaurus from the cliffs near Winnett. The dinosaur's claim to fame was having the world's largest head at 9 feet long.

Helena native Mary Schweitzer announces that her research team found what's believed to be soft tissue preserved in the fossilized bones of a Tyrannosaurus rex.

July 25 - Discovery Channel begins airing daily updates on a dig in north-central Montana

1806

1855

1888

1902

1908

1964

1982

1988

1989

2000

2001

2002

2004

2005

Prehistoric teeth found in Montana become the first dinosaur fossils found in the Western Hemisphere are given a scientific name: Paleontologist Joseph Leidy calls them Toodon, for Wounding Tooth.

The first reasonably complete Tyrannosaurus skeleton is discovered by a paleontologist in Hell Creek, Montana. Until this find, only fragments had been unearthed.

John Ostrom finds a claw from a small carnivorous dinosaur in Montana's Cloverly formation. The skeleton soon reveals a new type of dinosaur named Deinonychus, or Terrible Claws. The creature was wrongly referred to in "Jurassic Park" as Velociraptor

The unearthing of dinosaur eggs in Montana containing the fossilized skeletons of dinosaur embryos provides new details of the early life cycles of ancient reptiles.

Paleontologists uncover five Tyrannosaurus rex fossils near Fort Peck, marking the first time more than one such dinosaur was found in one spot.

Montana's duck-billed dinosaur, "Leonardo," makes its scientific debut. With its fossilized skeleton covered in soft tissue (skin, scales, muscle, foot pads) and its last meal still in its stomach, it makes the Guinness Book of World Records as the best preserved dino.

June 25 - Hall of Horns and Teeth opens to the public in the first of three expansions at the Museum of the Rockies