

DINOSAURS IN THE LONE STAR DINOSAUR EXHIBIT

PAWPAWSAURUS SKULL

Name of dinosaur:	<i>Pawpawsaurus campbelli</i>
Name means:	“Paw Paw Formation lizard”
When it lived/how old it is:	Early Cretaceous, 100 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Fossil Creek Community, Fort Worth
Who found it:	Cameron Campbell, 1992



In 1992, 19-year-old Cameron Campbell, who then worked at the Fort Worth Zoo, made the discovery of a lifetime. He was hunting for fossils near the baby nodosaur site in Fort Worth when he found an absolutely beautiful skull of an adult nodosaur, encrusted with rock and oyster shell. Nodosaurus are armored dinosaurs related to ankylosaurs. They seem to have liked living near the shore, and at the time, this was the shore of the Paw Paw sea, part of the Western Interior Seaway which divided the continent of North America in half. Cameron gave the skull to Southern Methodist University and there, scientists figured out that the skull was unique in the world. The skull was from a new species of dinosaur that they named *Pawpawsaurus* after the rock layers where it was found. The baby nodosaur is probably the same species, but its bones are not formed well enough to tell for sure. There aren't many American cities that can claim a new dinosaur.

***PROTOHADROS BYRDI* SKULL**

Name of dinosaur:	<i>Protohadros byrdi</i>
Name means:	“Beginning hadrosaur”
When it lived/how old it is:	Late Cretaceous, 95 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Flower Mound, Tarrant County
Who found it and when:	Gary Byrd, 1994



While driving along a new road near Flower Mound, Texas, Gary Byrd stopped to look for fossils. The black shale rock was not very promising. It formed in stagnant, lifeless pools along an ancient shoreline. To his surprise, Gary found some dinosaur bones. Eventually, a whole skull of a hadrosaur, or duck-billed dinosaur, was excavated. Duckbills were very common later in the Cretaceous Period. The early date for this hadrosaur relative, 98 million years ago, along with its unique features called for a new name. Scientists named it *Protohadros* meaning “beginning hadrosaur.” It is the most primitive hadrosaurid known. Scientists believe hadrosaurs migrated into North America from Asia.

NODOSAUR BABY PARTIAL SKELETON

Name of dinosaur:	<i>Nodosauridae indet.</i>
Name means:	“Not yet determined member of the nodosaur family”
When it lived/how old it is:	Early Cretaceous, 100 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Within the Fort Worth city limits
Who found it:	Twelve-year-old Johnny Maurice and his father, 1989



Twelve-year-old Johnny Maurice found the first bones of a baby nodosaur in a field in the city of Fort Worth. When he showed them to his father, his dad joked that they must have been the remains of someone’s Kentucky Fried Chicken dinner. He and his father worked diligently in the ground and managed to unearth parts of every area of the nodosaur’s body. The skeleton tells the story of what happened in the weeks and months after it died. The fossils of sea creatures found with this skeleton tell us that the baby fell into a shallow sea. Marks on some bones show that sharks and crabs ate the soft body parts, leaving a cleaned skeleton on the sea floor. Oyster shells then started growing on several of the bones. The sizes of the oysters were carefully measured. Knowing how long it takes modern oysters to grow, we can estimate that the fossil oysters grew for a month or two before the bones were finally buried. The location of this discovery is close to where Cameron Campbell found the adult nodosaur skull several years later in 1992.

TENONTOSAURUS DOSSI FULL SKELETON

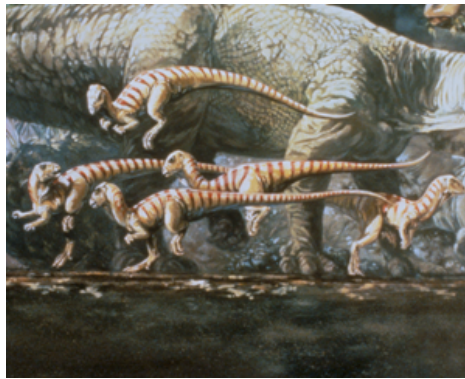
Name of dinosaur:	<i>Tenontosaurus dossi</i>
Name means:	“Tendon lizard”
When it lived/how old it is:	Early Cretaceous, 110 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Twin Mountains Formation, Parker County
Who found it:	Seven-year-old Thad Williams and his father, 1988



In the summer of 1988, Ted Williams and his 7-year-old son Thad were exploring a dry creek on a ranch just west of Weatherford when Thad saw something unusual in a pile of rocks. Lying there was the skull of a dinosaur with a broad muzzle like a horse. A spring flood had uncovered the dinosaur bones and washed them downstream. The bones were buried in sand and gravel that had to be sifted much like panning for gold. With the permission of the landowners, James and Dorothy Doss, the Williams along with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History started an unusual dinosaur dig. In the end, parts of three dinosaurs were found. Unlike other tenontosaurus, this specimen had teeth in the front of its mouth. It was named a new species in honor of the Doss family who donated it to science. *Tenontosaurus dossi* is a horse-sized ornithischian herbivore.

PROCTOR ORNITHOPOD FULL SKELETONS

Name of dinosaur:	Proctor Lake ornithopods
Name means:	No official name yet
When it lived/how old it is:	Early Cretaceous, 115 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Twin Mountains Formation, Proctor Lake, Comanche County
Who found it:	Rusty Branch, 1985



Rusty Branch, a student at Tarleton State University, made one of the most important finds in Texas dinosaur history when he discovered some bones at Proctor Lake in Comanche, Texas. What he found was not just a few teeth, but skeletons, and lots of them. Except for a few adults, all were small skeletons of young animals. What could cause this? One idea is that a nursery group died in a drought. The bleached and cracked condition of the bones suggests this. The bones were found in a mudstone that formed in a river valley. Like ostriches today, these dinosaurs may have had a few adults look after a large group of young. These small plant-eating dinosaurs are new to science and will soon get a name.

The Proctor Lake site where the bones were discovered is a stretch of red sedimentary rocks extending for a half mile. Within this stretch is a band of strata about six feet thick dotted with more than 60 concentrations of dinosaur bones. The red sedimentary rocks represent muds that were deposited on ancient floodplains along rivers flowing southeastward toward the sea.

PLEUROCOELUS PARTIAL SKELETON

Name of dinosaur:	<i>Pleurocoelus</i>
Name means:	“Hollow side”
When it lived/how old it is:	Early Cretaceous, 115 million years ago
Where the fossil was found:	Twin Mountains Formation, Jones Ranch, Hood County
Who found it:	University of Texas students, 1982



Pleurocoelus is a large, four-legged, plant-eating brontosaur – adopted by the Texas legislature as the official state dinosaur! University students found some of the bones in the early 1980s at a ranch in Hood County, Texas. Excavation by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History began in 1993 and since then, parts of four of these dinosaurs have been excavated out of hard rock. Only half of the bones found so far have been chipped out of the rock matrix -- the dinosaurs are huge and they come out of the ground in big blocks. The largest weighed 22,000 pounds. As they are prepared, more bones will be added to this skeleton. Thanks to the landowners Bill and Decie Jones, hundreds of teachers and students have worked at this site over the years. It is the biggest dinosaur project ever undertaken in the state of Texas.