

Dinosaur Names

Dinosaurs are given generic names based on a particular body feature or characteristic. Generic names have at least two parts with a Latin or Greek meaning. For instance the Greek meaning for dino (deinos) is terrible + saur (sauros) meaning lizard equals the name dinosaur or "terrible lizard." Any combination of the names might be used to name a dinosaur.

- I. Use the Generic Name Key below to find out what some of the most popular dinosaur names mean.
- II. Pretend you have just discovered the fossil of a new, never discovered dinosaur. First give the dinosaur a generic name using the meanings below; give the dinosaur a specific name by adding your name; last draw a picture of the dinosaur. (Example: Deinoskeratosraptor daniel = terrible horned robber discovered by Daniel)

Tyrannosaurs	<i>tyrannos + sauros</i>	_____
Deinonychus	<i>deinos + onychos</i>	_____
Allosaurus	<i>allos + sauros</i>	_____
Brachiosaurus	<i>bracchium + sauros</i>	_____
Troodon	<i>troo + odontos</i>	_____
Corythosaurus	<i>korythos + sauros</i>	_____
Diplodocus	<i>diplos + dokos</i>	_____
Iguanodon	<i>odontos + iguana</i>	_____
Maiasaura	<i>maia + sauros</i>	_____
Parasaurolophus	<i>para + lophos + sauros</i>	_____
Ankylosaurus	<i>ankyloein + sauros</i>	_____
Stegosaurus	<i>stegos + sauros</i>	_____
Coelophysis	<i>koilos + physis</i>	_____
Styracosaurus	<i>styrax + sauros</i>	_____
Apatosaurus	<i>apatelos + sauros</i>	_____
Triceratops	<i>tri + keratos + ops + sauros</i>	_____
Velociraptor	<i>velocis + raptor</i>	_____

Generic Name Key

<i>allos</i> = different	<i>onychos</i> = claw
<i>ankyloein</i> = stiffened	<i>ops</i> = face
<i>apatelos</i> = deceptive	<i>pachys</i> = thick
<i>bracchium</i> = arm	<i>para</i> = similar
<i>deinos</i> = terrible	<i>physis</i> = form
<i>diplos</i> = double	<i>raptor</i> = robber
<i>dokos</i> = beam	<i>sauros</i> = lizard
<i>Iguana</i> = like an Iguana	<i>stegos</i> = covered or plated
<i>keratos</i> = horned	<i>stryax</i> = spiked
<i>koilos</i> = hollow	<i>tri</i> = three
<i>korythos</i> = helmet	<i>troo</i> = wounding
<i>lophos</i> = crested	<i>tyrannos</i> = tyrant
<i>maia</i> = good mother	<i>velocis</i> = swift
<i>odontos</i> = teeth	