

Careful Work

Scientists have to be very careful as they uncover dinosaur fossils. They use bright lights and tiny tools so that they don't ruin the fossil by accident. They use toothbrushes to brush away layers of dirt and rock. They don't want to brush away the fossilized skin of the dinosaur! It takes a long time to uncover a fossil.



Tyler Lyson works on a fossil.

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The Mummy of All Dinosaurs

By Jane Sellman

MARCH 2008: Scientists Dr. Phillip Manning and Tyler Lyson have big news! They found a whole dinosaur mummy in North Dakota. A dinosaur mummy is a special kind of fossil. People usually have only pieces of a dinosaur fossil to study. Sometimes

they have a bone or a footprint. But in a dinosaur mummy, soft parts like skin or muscles have turned to stone, too. The dinosaur mummy Tyler and Phillip found was extra special. Its whole body had become a fossil, including its organs!

There are only ten dinosaur mummies in the world, and this is the most complete one ever found. Studying this dinosaur mummy is already changing the way scientists think about dinosaurs.

Because the mummy still has its skin,

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Tyler Lyson (on the right) uses a jackhammer to remove rock from around fossils.

Compare and Contrast



T. rex

- Length: 40'
- Weight: 6-7 tons
- Speed: 20 mph
- Teeth: pointed for tearing meat



Hadrosaur

- Length: 36'
- Weight: 4-5 tons
- Speed: 28 mph
- Teeth: flat for chewing plants

How else can you compare these two dinosaurs?

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Mummy of All Dinos

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scientists found that it probably had stripes. The stripes may have helped it hide in the woods from other animals. Maybe other dinosaurs had spots or other patterns on their skin.

Another thing scientists have discovered by looking at this mummy is that dinosaurs were even bigger than we thought! The pieces of the backbone all had a little space between them. Until now, people at museums put pieces of dinosaur backbones right next to each other.

Museums will now have to take apart all the dinosaur skeletons and make them longer.

Tyler and Phillip also learned that the dinosaur had big muscles in his legs. It could run about 28 miles per hour. That's fast! It could outrun a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

People will study this mummy for a long time. There is much more to learn. Next, they hope to learn what the dinosaur ate, and how it died.

Writing Prompt:

This is part of the hadrosaur mummy's skin. Does it look like skin from any animals living today? Write about how it's similar or not similar to some current animals' skins.



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WHAT IS A HADROSAUR?

A hadrosaur is a dinosaur that lived millions of years ago. It was a large animal with a mouth that stuck out like a duck's bill. Some hadrosaurs had a crest on their head. Scientists used to believe that the hadrosaur had webbed feet. The Dakota hadrosaur mummy revealed that instead it had pads on its feet, like a camel. Hadrosaurs could have been as large as 40 feet long. The hadrosaur ate only plants, such as pinecones.



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Word Wise

Hadro comes from a Greek word for "bulky," and *saur* comes from a word that means "lizard."