

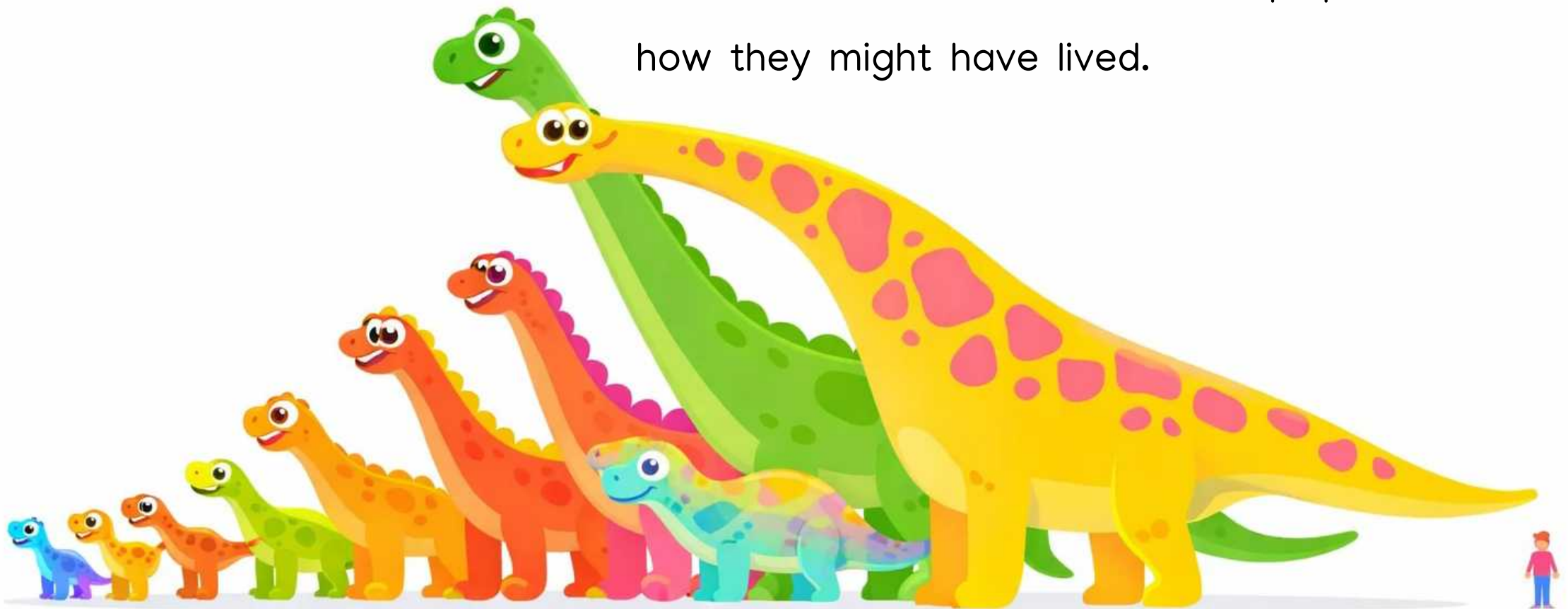
Roar Roar
DINOSAURS!



Roar! Dinosaurs! We have learnt a lot from prehistoric fossils. They have helped us to guess at the ways that different dinosaurs acted. The more fossilized bones that we find, the more accurate our thinking becomes.



We live in an **incredible** time for fossil hunting. There has been a big boom in our **understanding** of **dinosaurs** and the ways that they led their lives. We can also connect the ways that **animals** live today with the bodies of **dinosaurs** to pinpoint how they might have lived.



We have found out that some **dinosaurs** lived and hunted in packs. We can tell this because we have found nests full of bones from **different individuals** but the same type of dinosaur. They may have worked **together** the way that **predators** like **hyenas** do.

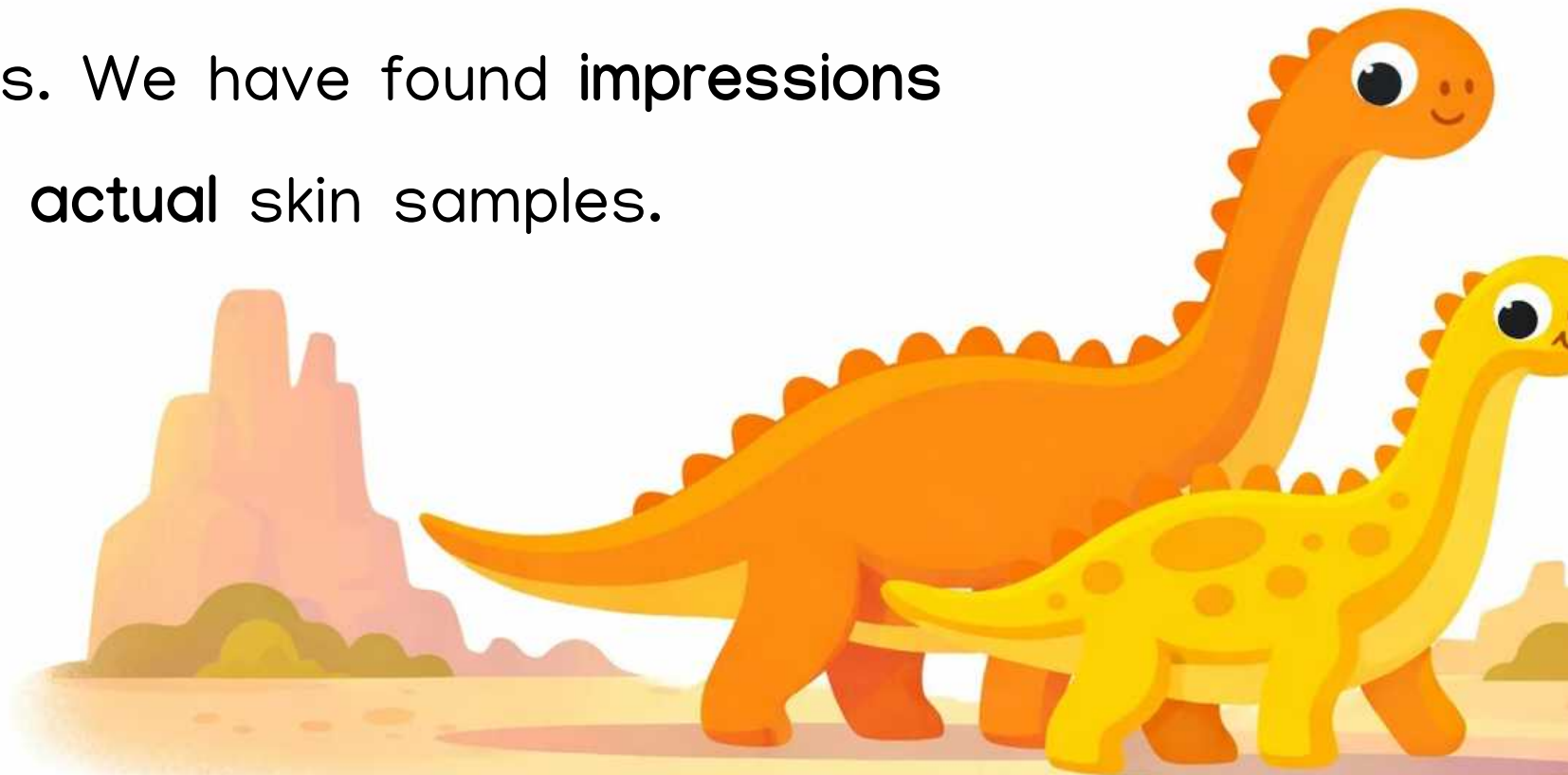




Some preferred to hunt alone. We can get clues from a **dinosaur's** teeth and bones about what sort of diet they had.

Carnivores' mouths are full of **dangerous** teeth that rip and tear. They don't need any of the flat, grinding teeth that **herbivores** use to chew on plants.

The color of a dinosaur's skin is something that we have guessed at. This is because of how fossils form and how different parts of the body rot over time. Dinosaurs lived such a long time ago. Unfortunately, not all of them became fossils. We have found impressions of skin but no actual skin samples.



We used to think that **theropod dinosaurs** originally looked like this. However, we now understand that **dinosaurs** like T-rex and **velociraptor** had feathers. We can tell this from a line around their bodies in fossils where the feathers rotted away. **Theropod dinosaurs** got smaller over time and started to be able to fly. **Eventually**, they evolved into birds. Even chickens come from **dinosaurs!**





We can even get a sense of how some **dinosaurs** raised their young. **Animals** today vary a lot when it comes to looking after their **family**. It was no **different** for the **dinosaurs**. We understand more about how plant-eating **dinosaurs** raised their **family** because there were a lot of them.

From a dinosaur's bones,
we can make some
educated guesses about
the way that it moved.

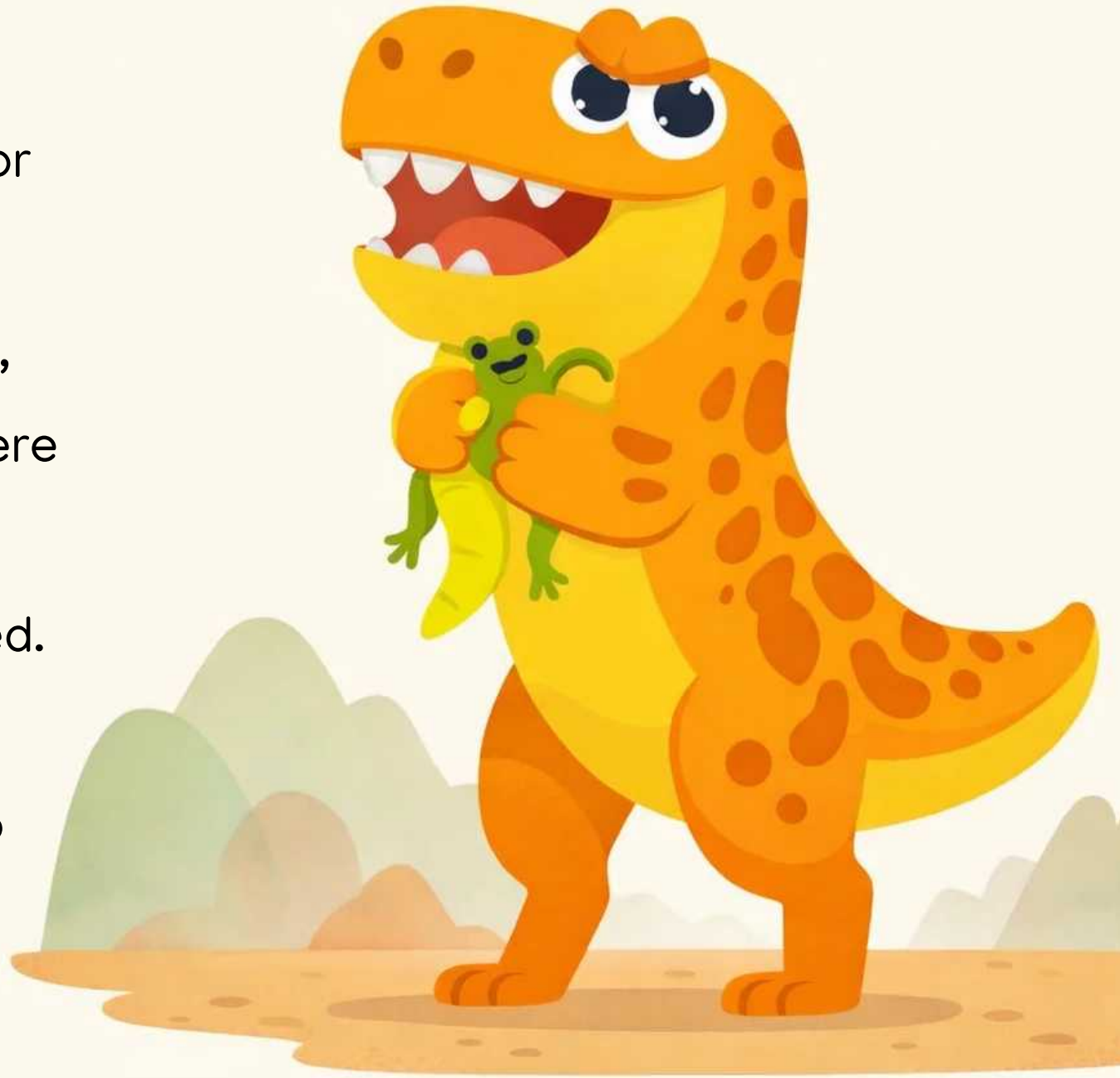
We can do this from clues
in the bones with regard
to how much weight they
could hold on their limbs
and also from footprints
that have been preserved.





Some were able to walk on all four legs or stand up on their hind legs and use their front legs to **manipulate** objects. They could have grasped things. They could have **defended** themselves. It would have been very useful.

Some dinosaurs had funny parts, like the incredibly short arms on a T-rex. For a while we thought that these limbs were vestigial, which means that they were of less and less use over time as this animal evolved. However, these arms still helped T-rex to cling onto prey and mates to some degree.





We need to remember that our understanding of dinosaurs is always changing. The more research that we do and fossils that we find, the more we can confirm **different theories** that have been put forward. It is so cool to live in the best time so far to **understand dinosaurs!**

Give a roar for **dinosaurs!**
They were such **amazing**
creatures, and an
important part of our
planet's **history**. Learning
about **dinosaurs** is not
just fun, it also helps us
to advance the way that
we **understand evolution**
and the ways that our
world changes.





Roar Roar Dinosaurs

ROAR! Did you know scientists can figure out what a dinosaur ate just by looking at its teeth? Or that T-rex might have had feathers and could be related to a chicken? Join one boastful T-rex as it meets long-necked giants, pack hunters, and gentle parents - and slowly discovers there is far more to dinosaurs than size and a big set of jaws. This decodable reader practices 3+ syllable words such as 'dinosaurs,' 'incredible,' 'velociraptor,' and 'unfortunately.'

Reading Skills: 3+ Syllables

accurate, actual, amazing, animal, animals, carnivores, dangerous, defended, different, dinosaurs, educated, eventually, evolution, family, fossilized, herbivores, history, however, hyenas, important, impressions, incredible, incredibly, individuals, manipulate, originally, predators, prehistoric, remember, something, theories, theropod, together, understand, understanding, unfortunately, velociraptor, vestigial

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