

DINOS A to Z

*Learn*  
BRIGHT

# ARGENTINOSAURUS

High-Interest Reading Comprehension



GRADE **2-4**

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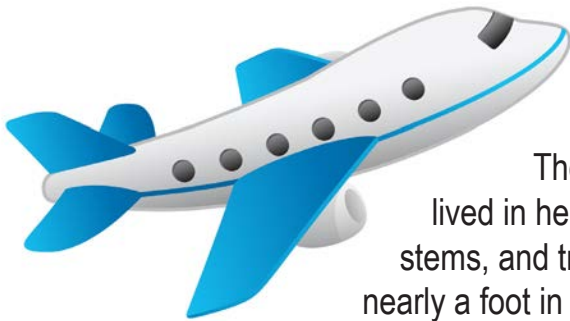
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# Dinos A to Z: Argentinosaurus

<sup>1</sup>If you wanted to see a really, *really* big dinosaur, then you may be looking for the Argentinosaurus (ARE·juhn·TEE·nuh·SOAR·russ)! Some scientists believe it was the largest living dinosaur to walk the planet. Its fossils were discovered in Argentina, a country in South America. That is how it got its name, which means "Argentine lizard." The species roamed the earth about 90 million years ago.

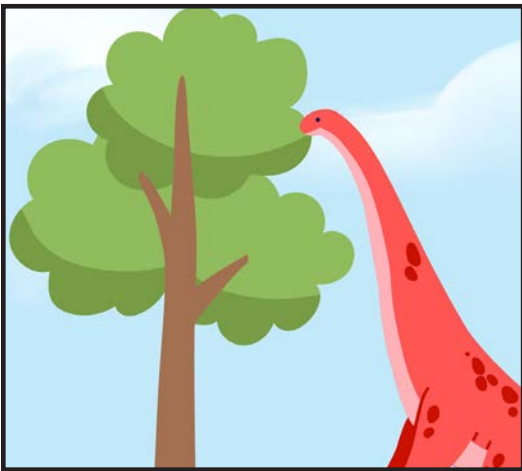


<sup>2</sup>Argentinosauruses are in the **sauropod** family, a group of enormous dinosaurs. Sauropods have elongated necks. Their heads are small, and their tails are long. The legs of sauropods are built like columns in a building. They have to be able to hold the enormous weight of the species.



<sup>3</sup>How much did an Argentinosaurus weigh? It weighed between 65 and 75 tons. That is nearly as much as a single-aisle commercial airplane! An adult could reach between 95 and 115 feet in length. Their large size kept these dinosaurs from moving at a fast **pace**.

They **meandered** at about five miles per hour. Paleontologists think they lived in herds. Argentinosauruses were herbivores that munched on grasses, stems, and tree leaves. The females laid up to 10 or 15 eggs at a time that were nearly a foot in **diameter**!



<sup>4</sup>There is a scientific mystery surrounding these great beasts. There are no complete skeletons of the dinosaur. Scientists have used computer models and comparisons of similar sauropods to reconstruct what they think is how they looked. But the mystery is how these and other sauropods held up their extraordinarily long necks. To keep its neck **vertical** to munch on tender leaves high in the trees, the Argentinosaurus would have to pump blood from its heart 40 feet in the air. This would put an incredible amount of stress on the animal's heart!

<sup>5</sup>Is the Argentinosaurus the world's largest dinosaur? No one knows for certain. Scientists need more fossil evidence to answer that question!



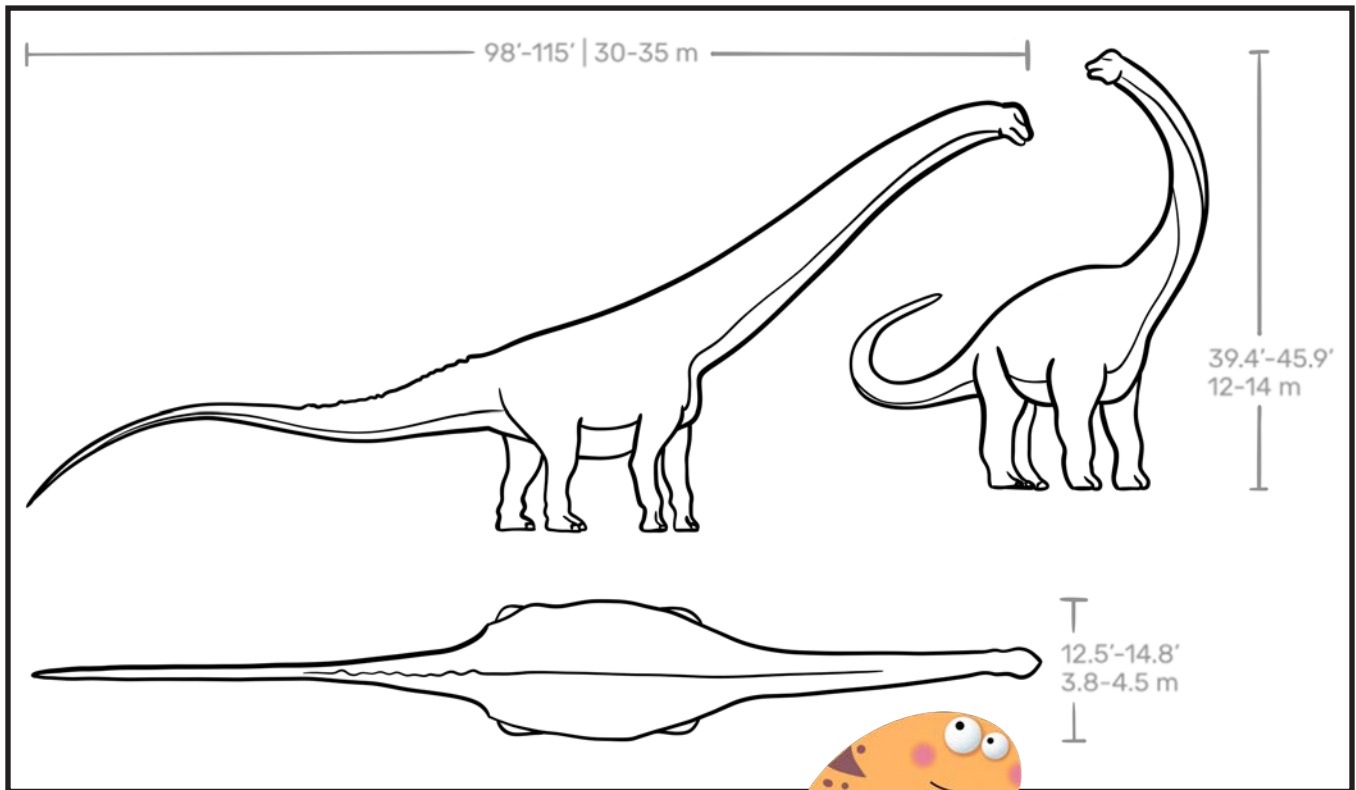


## MEASURE THE DINO

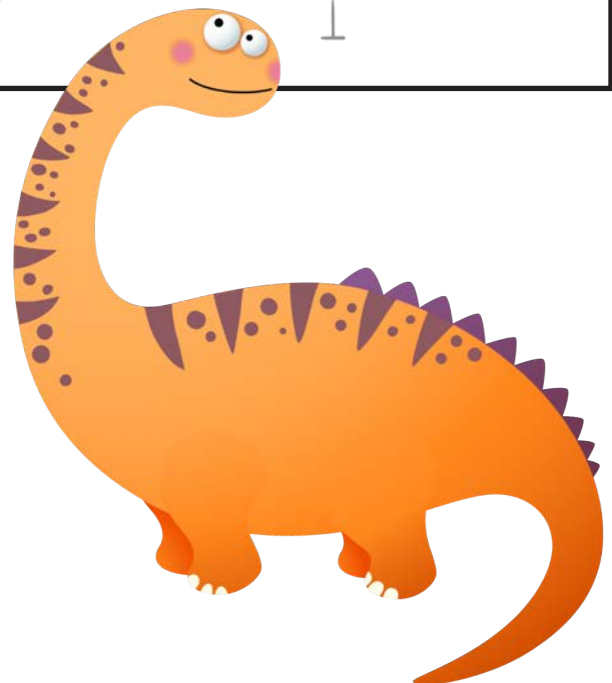
**Instructions:** How big was the Argentinosaurus? Grab a tape measure, a roll of kite string (200 feet), a mallet, and some stakes!

On a large open field, tap a stake into the ground. Have your teacher help you if needed. Tie one end of your kite string to the stake. Next, using the tape measure, walk out 115 feet. At the 115 feet mark, tap another stake into the ground. Tie the end of the kite string to this stake.

If you want to know how tall the dinosaur was, tie another kite string around your stake. Now, walk straight across the field (perpendicular) for 50 feet. Place a stake at the 50-foot mark and tie the string to it. Now look at your work.



# WHAT A BIG DINOSAUR!!!





# Practice

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Instructions:** What did you learn? Answer the questions based on what you read.

1) How did the Argentinosaurus get its name?

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2) What is a sauropod? How is the Argentinosaurus related to a sauropod?

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3) Why don't scientists know if the Argentinosaurus is the world's largest dinosaur?

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4) What word(s) **least** describes the Argentinosaurus?

- a. tiny                      b. gigantic                      c. carnivore                      d. solitary

5) What mystery are scientists trying to solve about the Argentinosaurus and sauropods in general?

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