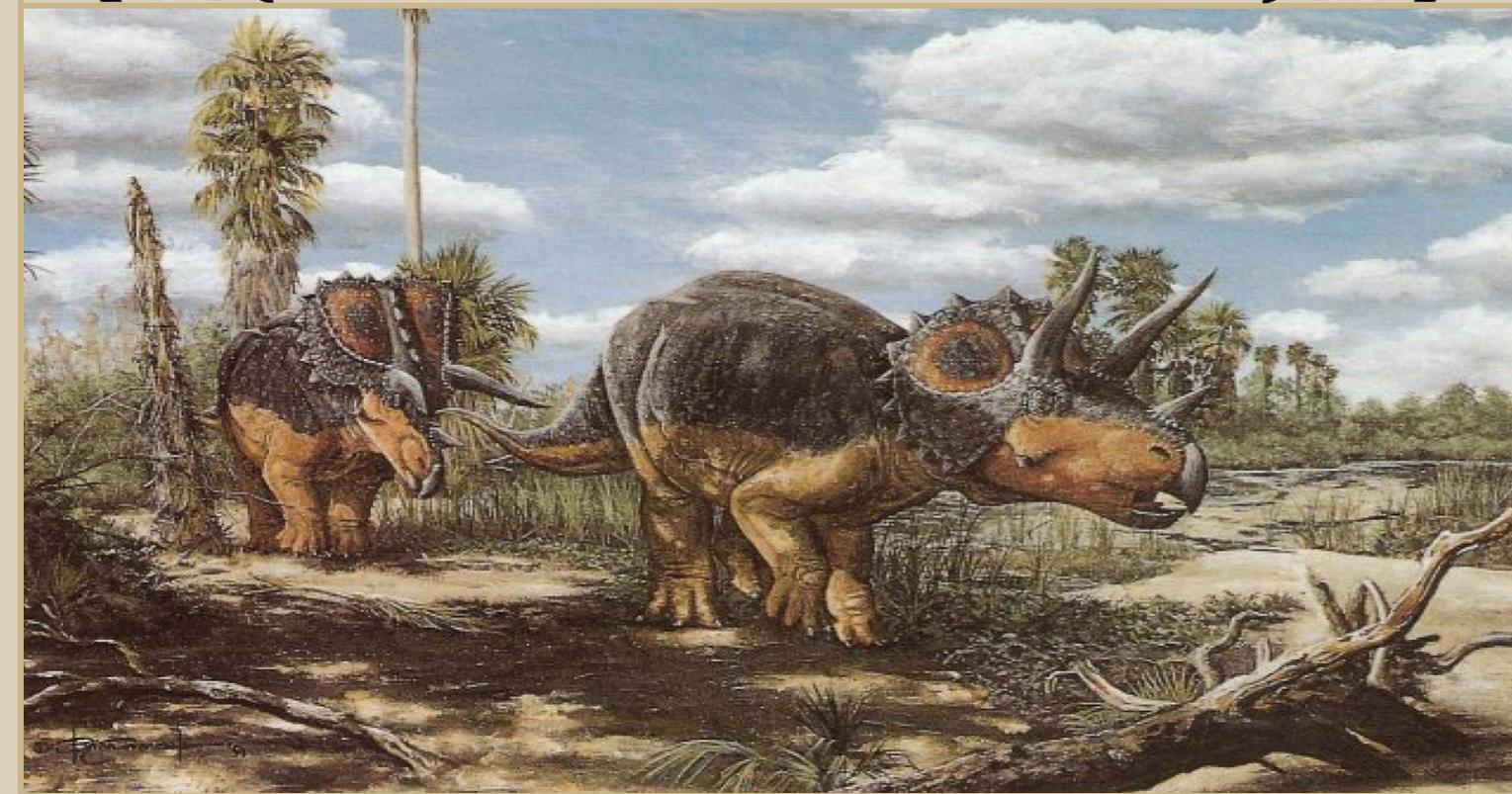




TRICERATOPS HORRIDUS



Size and growth

Adult Triceratops were amongst **the largest member of the Family Ceratopsidae**, measuring up to **nine metres long, three metres high** and weighing as much as **six tonnes**. While many different species of Triceratops were once recognized, it is now thought that there were **only two**. All other distinctions between specimens are attributed to **individual variation and different growth stages**.

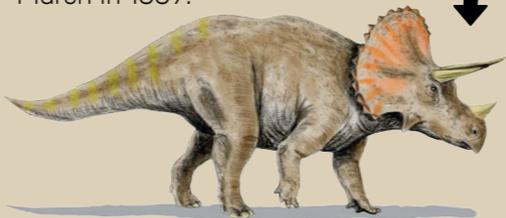
It has recently been suggested that another frilled dinosaur **Torosaurus may actually represent large, adult forms of Triceratops**. This may be supported by the abundance of semi-adult Triceratops known from fossil sites, and the lack of known, fully mature specimens. It is thought the **relatively short height of Triceratops restricted it to browsing on low-lying plants, such as cycads, palms and ferns**.

Frill and horns

The horns of Triceratops were probably **covered in tough keratin, which increased length and strength**. Wounds have been found on the face, frills and horns of several Triceratops specimens. These injuries correspond in dimension to the horns of other Triceratops, suggesting **individuals fought over territory or mates**. The relatively **thick frill of Triceratops also protected the neck from rivals and predators**.

Discovery and name

The name Triceratops means '**three-horned face**' in Greek. The **first finds of Triceratops were an isolated pair of horns**, initially thought to belong to an ancient bison. Triceratops was named by the famous palaeontologist **Othneil Charles Marsh** in 1889.



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3D MODEL
TRICERATOPS HORRIDUS
SKULL



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