

The Triassic Period

250 – 200 million years ago



Ferns and moss,
not grass

Dry

Vast deserts

One land mass from pole to pole

No polar ice caps

Warm seas

Triassic Period



Coelophysis



Sharovipteryx



Lystrosaurus



Eozostrodon

These creatures also existed during the Triassic Period.



The dinosaurs arrive

THE TRIASSIC: 245 – 204 MYA

At the end of the Triassic, when dinosaurs first appeared, there were vast areas of hot, dry desert. But near rivers and coasts there were lush forests of tree ferns. In drier areas there were thinner forests of conifers (cone-bearing trees), rather like the monkey-puzzle trees of today, and cycads, a palm-like plant. In these Triassic forests lived dinosaurs such as *Anchisaurus*, *Coelophysis* and *Saltopus*.

Forests of conifers and cycads grew near water.

An early type of crocodile, *Protosuchus*, lived mostly on land.

There was no grass; instead, ferns grew over the ground.

Triassic mammals were small, and easy prey for dinosaurs.

Plateosaurus was the first large dinosaur. It was about 8m long and was tall enough to reach and eat leaves on trees.

Procompsognathus was a fast-running meat-eater that preyed on insects, small mammals and reptiles.

Horsetails were plants that flourished near water.

Is it true

that there were no flowers in the Triassic?

Yes, it is true that there were no flowers at all during the Triassic. Nor were there any flowers in the Jurassic. Flowering plants did not appear on Earth until the middle of the Cretaceous Period.

The flying reptile *Kuehneosaurus* could glide from branch to branch searching for insects to eat.

Glebosaurus was not a dinosaur, but an early lizard-like animal.

The Dinosaur Era

In Millions of Years before the Present

