



MOSASAUR FUN FACTS

- ▲ Mosasaurs were a diverse group of lizards that lived in the earth's oceans from about 120 million to 65 million years ago. They became extinct 65 million years ago, at the same time as dinosaurs.
- ▲ Mosasaurs were top meat eaters in the ocean and are known to have fed on creatures such as fish, sharks, birds, shelled animals called ammonites, and each other. Stomach contents found with some mosasaur skeletons show that they had little trouble munching down their own kind.
- ▲ Just like a modern snake, a mosasaur had hinged lower jaws that allowed it to swallow prey larger than its head. It also had sharp, backward-pointing teeth on the roof of its mouth to force prey down its throat.
- ▲ Mosasaurs are thought to have evolved from snake-like lizards that left the land and returned to the ocean. The mosasaur-like monitor lizards found throughout the world today are considered to be the closest living relatives of mosasaurs.
- ▲ The biggest living monitor lizard, the Komodo Dragon, grows to lengths of 10 feet. The largest known mosasaurs were 45 feet long, but averaged about 20 feet in length.
- ▲ Mosasaurs had flippers very similar to whales, but they used their flippers primarily for steering rather than to move themselves through the water. Mosasaurs used their long tails to swim.
- ▲ For many years paleontologists thought mosasaurs left the water to lay their eggs on land. Recently, a mosasaur skeleton was found with two baby mosasaurs in the belly region, indicating that mosasaurs gave live birth in the water.