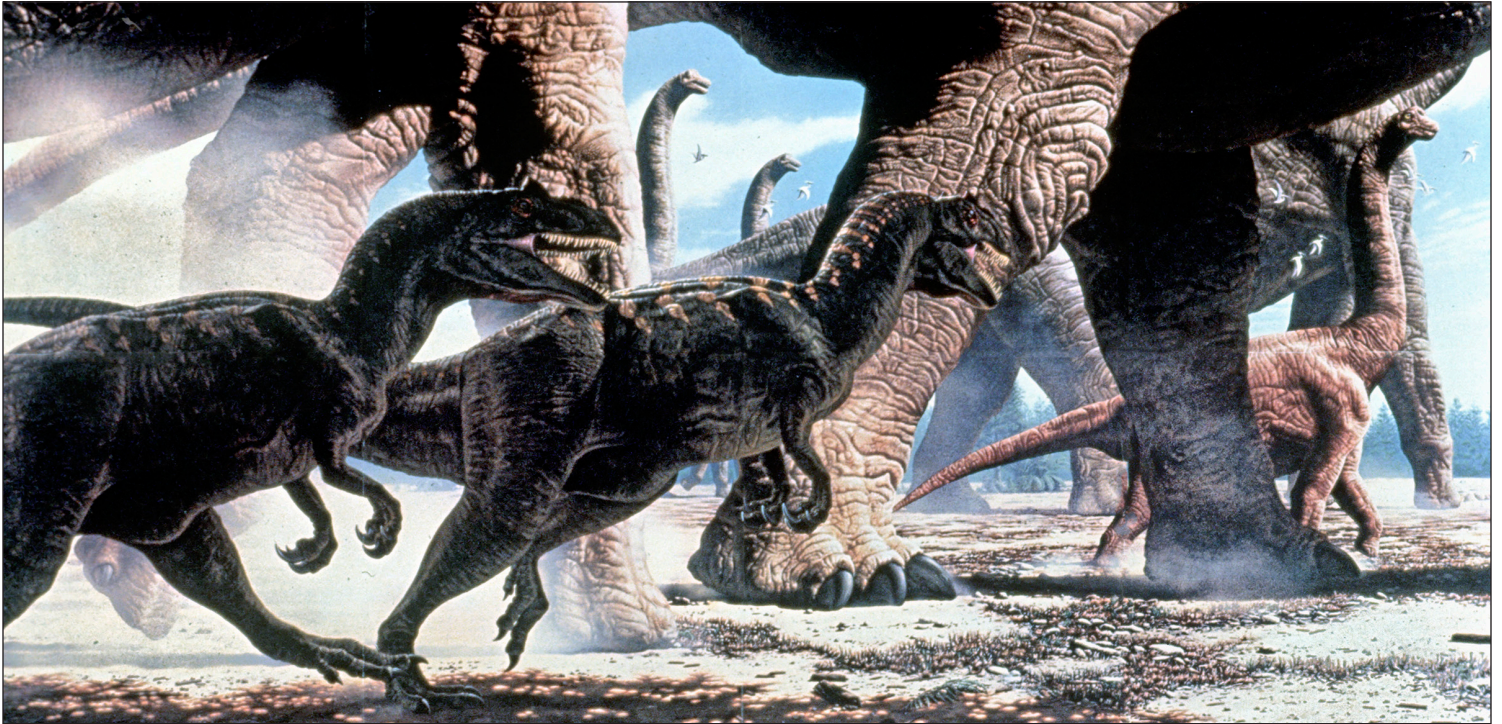


Dinosaur Fossils are not Found in Indiana



Dinosaurs are familiar extinct animals, but few people realize how extensive and varied in size these creatures were. Animals diversified rapidly in the Mesozoic Era, giving way to massive lizards and giant dinosaurs. Roaming the landscape of a supercontinent known as Pangea, dinosaurs thrived in North America.

About 65 million years ago, a mass extinction occurred that killed many prehistoric animals at the end of the Cretaceous period. This event, believed to be caused by an asteroid impact in the Yucatan Peninsula, is the largest extinction event in geologic history. Dinosaurs, flying and gliding

reptiles, most marine reptiles, most shelled cephalopods, and other invertebrates vanished. Today's reptiles, such as lizards, turtles, snakes, alligators, and crocodiles, are distant relatives of dinosaur species. The closest living descendant to dinosaurs today are birds, which evolved from feathered dinosaurs that escaped the extinction event.

Although dinosaurs probably lived in Indiana, the bedrock and sediments that would have contained their remains have long since been removed. The youngest bedrock in Indiana is far too old to contain dinosaur fossils. Kansas and New Jersey are the nearest known localities of dinosaur remains.