

Finding ESME

When you find it, you will know



FUN FACTS

Texas Dinosaurs

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The Pawpawsaurus, an armored ankylosaur found in Tarrant Co, Texas in 1992, highly resembles a Texas armadillo although they lived 100 million years apart and are not related.

Texas Dinosaur Facts



Across the world, about 300 kinds of dinosaurs have been discovered. Twenty-one of those dinosaurs lived in Texas between the Late Triassic period (225 million years ago), to the Late Cretaceous period (65 million years ago). The current state dinosaur of Texas is *Paluxysaurus jonesi*, a sauropod that would have measured 12 feet high at its shoulders, and 70 feet long from head to tail. *Paluxysaurus* is named after both Paluxy River and the town Paluxy, which were nearby where *Paluxysaurus* fossils were found in Texas.

Texas is also home to the Dinosaur Valley State Park, which is famous for its dinosaur footprints. Visitors can see both sauropod tracks and theropod tracks, which are believed to have been made by *Acrocanthosaurus*. During the early Cretaceous period, *Acrocanthosaurus* was the 'apex predator' of North America. It was also unique for its very tall row of backbones. These were likely covered by skin to form a ridge, sail, or hump.

Extra Fun Fact

Fossils of *Quetzalcoatlus*, a flying reptile that lived alongside the dinosaurs, were first discovered at Big Bend National Park. *Quetzalcoatlus* was as tall as a giraffe and had a wingspan between 30 to 35 feet, making it the size of a small airplane. Paleontologists are still trying to figure out how such a big creature could have flown.

Discussion Questions

Why does Esme want so desperately to keep Louella Goodbones to herself? And why does she ultimately let her go? During Esme's journey of unearthing the dinosaur, she uncovers other secrets too. How is the theme of secrets carried out in the novel? If you found a dinosaur would you keep it a secret? Or let the world know? Describe what you think Louella Goodbones looked like.

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