

King of the Slowpokes?



Tyrannosaurus rex

Do you think you could outrun a *Tyrannosaurus rex*? Some scientists believe you might have been able to!

Two scientists say that *T. rex* was not the quick-footed hunter shown in some movies. The scientists used computers to figure out how fast the 13,000-pound dinosaur might have run. The computers showed that *T. rex* did not have the right body posture or enough leg muscles to run fast.

"These animals were no speed demons," said John Hutchinson, who led the study. Hutchinson said *T. rex* more likely ran at about 10 miles an hour. That's about the average running speed of a person or an elephant.

Still a Fierce Hunter

Despite *T. rex*'s lack of speed, Hutchinson said the dinosaur was a fierce hunter. Instead of chasing animals that could run fast, however, *T. rex* probably hunted large but slow dinosaurs. Other scientists have a different idea. They say that *T. rex* probably fed on animals that were already dead.

Scientists still say *T. rex* was the fiercest meat-eating dinosaur on Earth 65 million years ago. The dinosaur stood about 20 feet tall and was about 40 feet long. It had teeth about 6 inches long. In one bite, a *T. rex* could remove 150 pounds of flesh from an animal.

Would you still want to race a *T. rex*?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The author calls *T. rex* a slowpoke because the T-Rex
 - A. could not run.
 - B. ate slowly.
 - C. was not a fast runner.
 - D. slowly poked other animals with its horns.

2. Which statement below is an opinion?
 - A. Everyone wants to learn about *T. rex*.
 - B. *T. rex* was 40 feet long.
 - C. *T. rex* ate meat.
 - D. *T. rex* could remove 150 pounds of flesh in one bite.

3. The author says *T. rex* was no "speed demon." This means that *T. rex*
 - A. did not run fast.
 - B. was mean.
 - C. had large teeth.
 - D. ran fast.

4. The author used the title "King of the Slowpokes" because
 - A. the T. Rex was hunted by elephants.
 - B. the T. Rex was very large.
 - C. the T. Rex was not a good hunter.
 - D. the T. Rex, although fierce, was not fast.

5. At the end of the passage, the author asks the reader "Would you still want to race a *T. rex*?" Why does the author ask that question? Explain.