

# Did dinosaurs really roar?

It might surprise you to hear that dinosaurs probably didn't roar, despite what they do in movies. So what did they really sound like?



*Parasaurolophus*

## Keep it down!

To let out a huge roar, dinosaurs would have had to open their mouths wide, like a lion or bear. Scientists have learned from looking at dino skulls that these prehistoric reptiles probably couldn't do that. Besides, roaring wouldn't help carnivores when they were hunting—making a lot of noise would have scared off their prey!

## Hooting

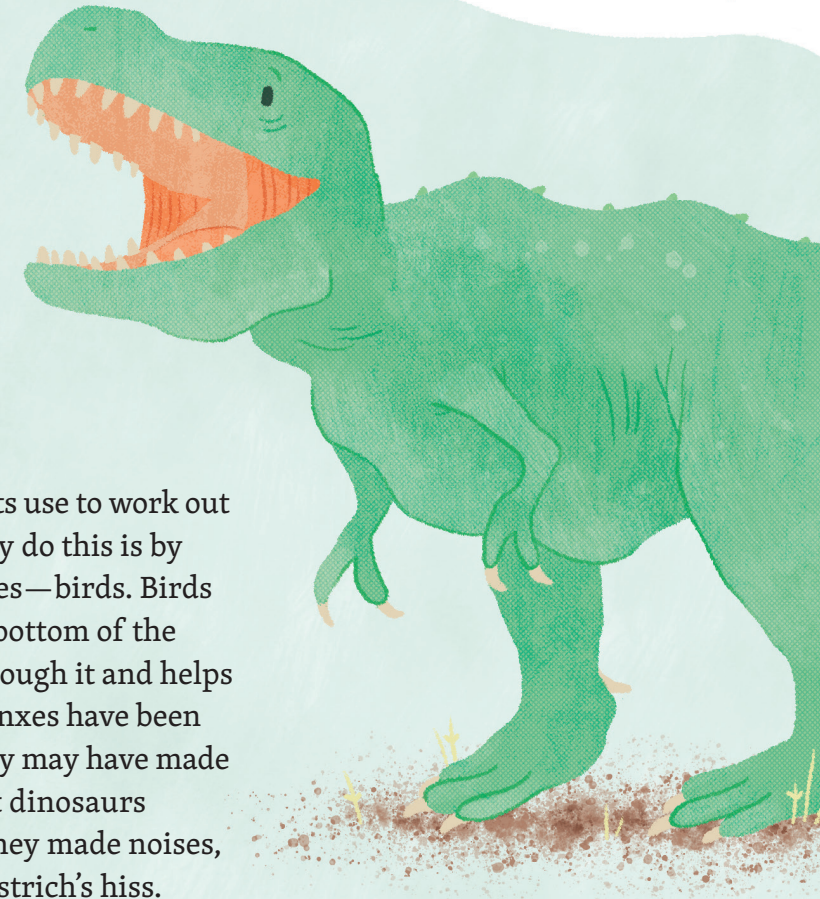
One dinosaur, the *Parasaurolophus*, had a large, bony crest on its head. This might have worked a bit like a trombone, making a loud hooting noise. These noises were unique to each *Parasaurolophus*, so they could tell each other apart.



## Hissing or growling?

What noise did big predators like *Tyrannosaurus rex* make, then? From looking at fossils, scientists think they might have hissed or growled, like crocodiles. We know that dinosaurs have different ear bones to humans, so we might not have been able to hear the terrifying growl of a *T. rex*.

There are lots of different methods scientists use to work out what dinosaurs sounded like. One way they do this is by looking at dinosaurs' closest-living relatives—birds. Birds have a special vocal organ (that sits at the bottom of the windpipe) called a syrinx. Air flows up through it and helps them sing and caw. Fossils of dinosaur syrinxes have been found, leading scientists to believe that they may have made noises in a similar way! We also think that dinosaurs probably kept their mouths closed when they made noises, creating a sound like a pigeon's coo or an ostrich's hiss.



*Tyrannosaurus rex*

## Honk!

A fossilized syrinx from a birdlike dinosaur called *Vegavis iaai* was found in Antarctica. From looking at its shape and comparing it to that of modern birds, scientists think that it might have made a honking noise like a goose.



*Vegavis iaai*