

# DINO'S DYNAMOS

## Scotland's Fabulous Fossil Finds

### What is a fossil?

There are many different types of fossil; some are the body parts of animals such as bones, shells or teeth that have gradually turned to rock over thousands of years, or imprints of things like plant leaves, bark or even foot-prints. They can also be the burrows or feeding trails left by ancient creatures or even fossilised poo!



### Would you like to be a Palaeontologist?

A Palaeontologist is a scientist who looks at the history of life on our planet by investigating fossils. Each new fossil they find helps us discover more about the past, making our knowledge of the history of life more complete.



ORKNEY

### Skye - Scotland's Jurassic Isle

The Isle of Skye is the only place in Scotland where dinosaur fossils have been found! There is evidence that a family of plant-eating dinosaurs wandered this land 165 million years ago. Footprints of youngsters have been found beside larger footprints from a fully grown adult, maybe the adult was looking

after its babies? Other footprints of meat-eating dinosaurs have also been found on this Jurassic Isle.



SKYE

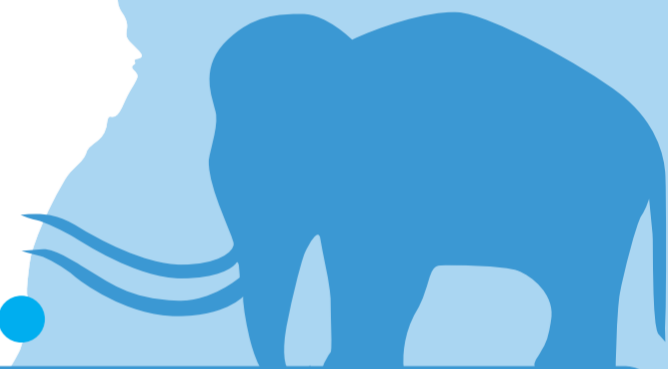
### Orkney's Fossilized Fish

Around 390 million years ago, what is now the Islands of Orkney were under water. During this time, called the Devonian period, Scotland was much warmer than it is today. A very important fishy find was made on Orkney. At over 385 million years old, this amazing creature is thought to be the ancestor of modern four-limbed, land-living vertebrates!



INVERNESS

ABERDEEN



### The Bearsden Shark

In 1981 the gruesome fossilised remains of a one metre long shark were found. This shark is thought to be 330 million years old and its skeleton is almost completely intact. It was preserved in the shale so well scientists have been able to see the fossilised remains of its last dinner still in its guts!



GLASGOW

EDINBURGH

ARRAN

LESMAHAGOW

### A Watery Grave (North Sea)

Between 1.8 million years ago and 10,000 years ago, during an era known as the Pleistocene there were many times when our world was much colder than it is today. During these times, enormous amounts of water were locked up in glaciers that covered Scotland. The North Sea was not a sea at all; it was a dry grassland, criss-crossed with large rivers, where Ice Age mega-mammals roamed. Mammoths thrived here until 10,000 years ago so lots of mammoth bits have been found at the bottom of the North Sea. Fishermen have found huge mammoth bones as well as mammoth teeth, tusks and skulls.

### Water Scorpions in Lanarkshire

The small town of Lesmahagow in Lanarkshire is world famous for its ancient arthropod fossils. Water Scorpions were awesome predators that lived in the warm shallow waters during the Silurian period 444 to 416 million years ago. They could grow up to 2.5 metres in length!



### Giant Millipede on the Isle of Arran

On the Isle of Arran, the fossilised footprints of a giant millipede have been found in 300 million year old rock! These enormous creatures, called Arthropleura, could grow up to two metres long just by munching on plants! Can you imagine a millipede as long as a grown man?!



**What is an arthropod?** Centipedes, millipedes, woodlice, spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites are all arthropods. They have bodies made up of segments, jointed legs and their skeleton is on the outside (it's the hard bit covering them).

