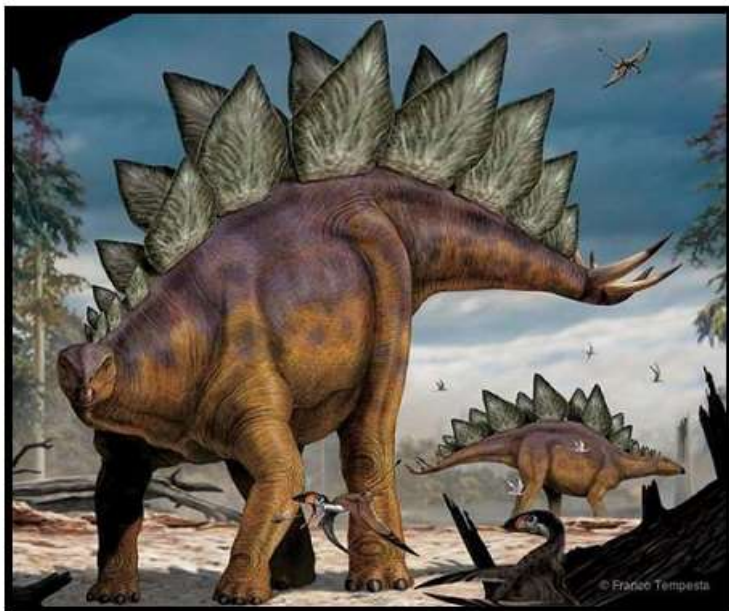


## Stegosaurus

Stegosaurus is a dinosaur that lived around 155 million years ago—during the Jurassic Period—in the Western portion of North America and parts of Europe. It was an herbivorous quadruped known for its rounded back and its double row of back plates that end with a double pair of spikes on this dinosaur's tail. This dinosaur was first discovered in 1877 by Othniel Charles Marsh during the Great Dinosaur Rush—also known as the Bone Wars.



The name 'Stegosaurus' which means "roofed lizard" comes from the Greek words 'stegos' meaning roof and 'sauros' meaning lizard.

An interesting fact to note is that of all of the dinosaurs, Stegosaurus had one of the smallest brains, like the size of a walnut. Although the actual anatomy of this dinosaur's brain is currently unknown, it is known that it only weighed approximately 3 ounces—which is extraordinarily small for a creature that weighed over 5 tons. On average, a fully grown Stegosaurus was around 9 meters (30ft) in length, 4 meters (14ft) in height. As such, it is believed that this dinosaur was very simple and slow moving.

### **Discussion Points:**

1. In what year when it was first discovered?
2. How small is the brain of this dinosaur?
3. How big can a Stegosaurus grow?