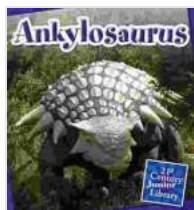


# Ankylosaurus: The Armored Titan of the Prehistoric World



## Ankylosaurus (21st Century Junior Library: Dinosaurs)

by Lucia Raatma

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5390 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 24 pages

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Step back in time millions of years and encounter one of the most extraordinary creatures to walk the Earth: the Ankylosaurus. As a member of the armored dinosaur family, this formidable herbivore possessed unparalleled defense mechanisms that set it apart from its contemporaries. Its distinctive appearance and unique adaptations have captivated the imaginations of scientists and enthusiasts alike, making it an icon of the prehistoric era.

## **Physical Attributes**

The most striking feature of the Ankylosaurus was its heavy armor, which covered its entire body from head to tail. This armor was composed of bony plates embedded in its skin, forming a formidable defense against predators. The plates varied in size and shape, with some being thick and rounded while others were smaller and more pointed. They overlapped like tiles on a roof, creating a nearly impenetrable shield.

In addition to its armor, the Ankylosaurus also possessed a massive tail club. This club was made of solid bone and could be swung with devastating force. It was a formidable weapon that could crush the bones of attackers and deter even the largest predators.

## **Size and Weight**

Ankylosaurus was a large and imposing dinosaur. Adults could reach lengths of up to 30 feet (9 meters) and weigh up to 10 tons (9 metric tons). They were among the largest herbivores of their time and played a vital role in the prehistoric ecosystem.

## **Diet**

As a herbivore, the Ankylosaurus primarily fed on low-growing plants. Its powerful jaws and grinding teeth were well-suited for processing tough vegetation. It is believed that the Ankylosaurus used its tail club to knock down trees and access high-quality foliage.

## **Habitat and Distribution**

Ankylosaurus fossils have been found in North America and Asia, suggesting that they had a wide distribution during the Cretaceous period. They preferred to inhabit temperate environments with abundant vegetation, such as forests and swamps.

## **Discoveries and History**

The first Ankylosaurus fossils were discovered in the late 19th century in Wyoming, USA. Since then, numerous specimens have been found around the world, providing valuable insights into their anatomy, behavior, and evolution.

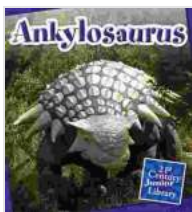
## **Cultural Significance**

Ankylosaurus holds a special place in popular culture as a symbol of prehistoric strength and resilience. It has been featured in numerous books, movies, and television shows, capturing the imagination of generations of dinosaur enthusiasts.

The Ankylosaurus is a remarkable creature that continues to fascinate scientists and the public alike. Its unique adaptations and formidable appearance make it one of the most recognizable and iconic dinosaurs of all time. As we delve deeper into the mysteries of its world, we gain a greater appreciation for the incredible diversity and wonder of life that existed millions of years ago.

## Additional Resources

- Natural History Museum: Ankylosaurus
- NOVA: Ankylosaurus
- Smithsonian Magazine: The Fearsome Ankylosaurus, a Prehistoric Tank



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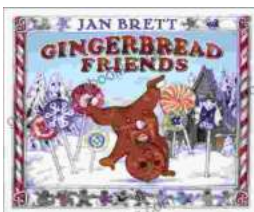
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