

Naming Dinosaurs! - Answers

In 1842, Sir Richard Owen coined the phrase 'dinosaur' from the Greek words for 'terrible' (or 'fearfully great') and 'lizard'. It started a trend in naming most dinosaurs in Greek, using their physical characteristics in the naming. Below are some of the common Greek roots used to name dinosaurs. See whether you can figure out the definitions of some of your favourite dinosaurs.

cerat	horn
don	tooth
mega	huge
micro	small
ops	face
phagus	eating
rex	King
sarco	flesh
spino	thorn
stego	roofed or covered
tri	From Latin, three
trichodo	hairy
tyranno	tyrant

What do the following dinosaur names mean?

Triceratops: **three horned face**

Stegosaurus: **covered or roofed lizard**

Spinosaurus: **thorned lizard**

Tyrannosaurus Rex: **tyrant lizard king**

