

What kinds of sounds did dinosaurs make?



In most cases, we can only guess what sounds dinosaurs made. The noise-making equipment of most animals is made of soft tissue and doesn't leave any trace in the fossil record. Tyrannosaurus rex might have hissed like a snake, chirped like a bird, or bellowed like an alligator during the mating season. A lot of modern reptiles are completely silent, so there's even a possibility that Tyrannosaurus made no noise at all (but just try telling that to a 9-year old!)

However, many duckbill dinosaurs had bony chambers on their heads that connected to the nasal passages. Scientists have speculated that these may have been resonance chambers for creating loud trumpeting

noises. Students working for the Tate Museum built a model of the inside of the nasal crest of one such duckbill dinosaur, Parasaurolophus, and then blew through it to hear what it would sound like. Depending on the amount of air pressure applied, the model produced a variety of mostly low (bass or baritone) sounds.

Another dinosaur, Silvisaurus, had a number of sinus chambers in its skull. A paleontologist by the name of Dr. Eaton believed that the sinus chambers were used for resonance and calculated that Silvisaurus could reach a high C.

Parasaurolophus



Parasaurolophus had a short muzzle and a curved, hollow crest up to 180 centimetres long jutting back from its head. A frill might have run from crest to back. Parasaurolophus grew up to ten metres long, and lived in Alberta, Utah, and New Mexico during the Upper Cretaceous Period.

