

## Why don't you have the real *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull on display?



Complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skulls are extremely rare. So far, Tate Museum field crews have not yet been lucky enough to find one. The skull we have on display at the museum is a cast of 'Stan', a *T. rex* that was found and excavated by the Black Hills Institute in Hill City, South Dakota. The cast was made from molds of the original bones, so it is exactly like the real thing.

Because of the value of such rare finds, a cast of the skull does make sense. It means that museums can share what they have found with others without worrying about damage to the original fossil. It also comes in handy if you're going to do a full skeletal mount of a dinosaur. As high up as a *T. rex* skull must be, if the original bones were mounted, there's always the chance that something could cause them to fall. Broken plastic reproductions of bones are much easier to replace if such an accident were to occur.

