**Dippy in 21 facts**

1. You pronounce their name dip-LOW-doe-kuss.
2. The meaning of their name is 'double beamed lizard'.
3. They lived about 154 to 150 million years ago - in the late Jurassic period.
4. They are the longest known dinosaur. Their length was up to 27 metres (88 feet).
5. They weighed about 12 tons (as much as a large truck). Although heavy, they were not the heaviest dinosaur. The Brachiosaurus weighed around 30 tons!
6. They had a very small head compared to the size of its body and would have had a very small brain, so were not very clever.
7. They were plant eaters (herbivores) with peg like teeth that look like incisors (teeth at the front of your mouth).
8. The teeth were slender and delicate, and replaced very quickly. Diplodocus had a tooth-replacement rate of one tooth every 35 days.
9. Their teeth were perfect for stripping the leaves from ferns, trees, bushes, cycads and gingkoes.
10. We now know that rather than chewing, Diplodocus spent a considerable time fermenting its food in its expanded gut, and probably didn’t need to swallow stones.
11. Diplodocus had a thin long and relatively inflexible neck. The neck could reach over 6m (20ft) but scientists now think that it would have not been able to lift it's head much higher than its body. Even if the dinosaur couldn't lift its head up very high, it could still rear up on its hind legs to reach the top of tall trees.
12. Dippy had 80 vertebrae.
13. Diplodocus front legs were shorter than its back legs.
14. The dinosaur's large tail placed its centre of mass pretty far back on its body, and it wouldn't have been able to walk very quickly, something like speeds up to 9mph (15kph).
15. We now think that Diplodocus could [whip the tips of their tails at supersonic speeds](http://paleobiol.geoscienceworld.org/content/23/4/393.abstract), producing a canonlike boom, possibly to intimidate would-be attackers or rivals, or for communication and courtship.
16. It was first thought that the tail dragged along as it walked - but no drag marks have been found beside.
17. Diplodocus could live upto 70-80 years; maybe a bit more.
18. Dippy lived in herds.
19. [Fossilized skin impressions](http://geology.gsapubs.org/content/20/12/1068.abstract)  suggest that dippy may have had small, keratinous spines along their tails, bodies and necks.
20. Thanks to Andrew Carnegie, who donated casts of complete skeletons to various European monarchs, Diplodocus is among the most displayed dinosaur. Diplodocus can been viewed at a number of museums worldwide.
21. This skeleton is a cast made up from 2 examples that was on display in the Natural History Museum in London. It is a replica of the near-complete D. carnegii fossil discovered in 1898. In early 2015, London's Natural History Museum announced that it would be replacing its iconic Dippy —— with a model of a blue whale, the largest animal known to ever exist on Earth.