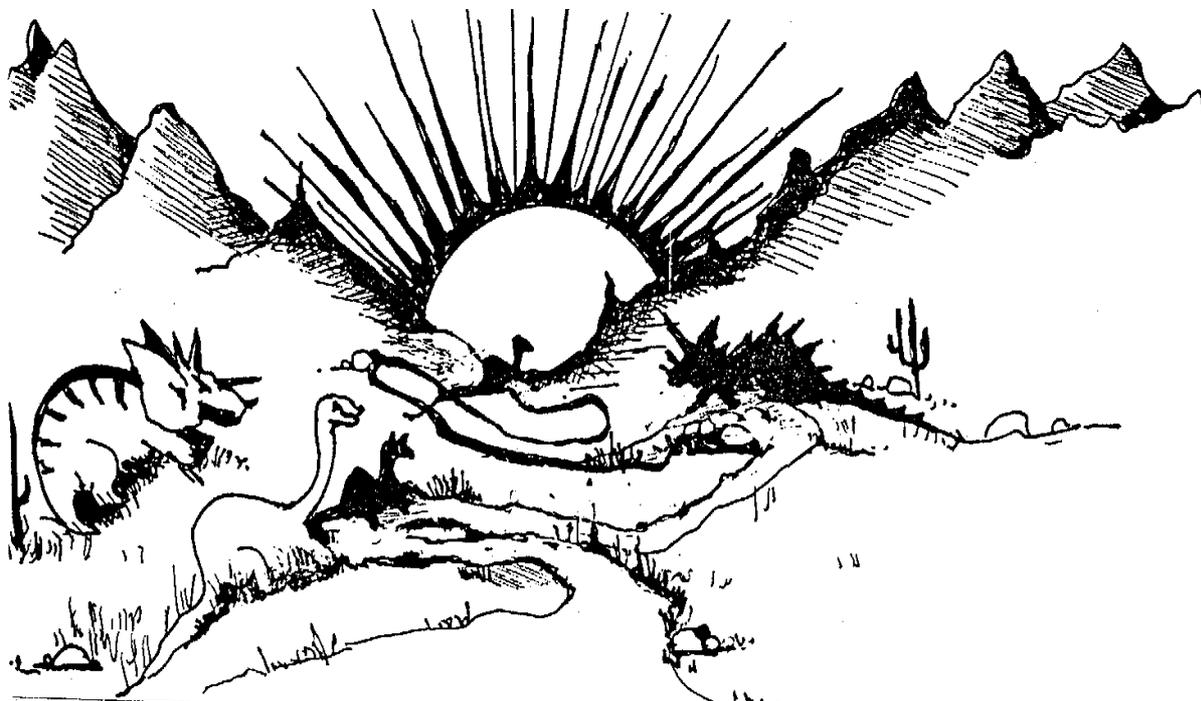


A Dinosaur Tale!

A story by Chris Abbas



**Many reasons are given to explain
why dinosaurs disappeared.
Here's another idea.**

Millions, possibly billions, maybe even trillions of years ago there was a dinosaur town, where dinosaurs lived and worked and learned and played.

Most of the dinosaurs were of the triceratops or carnosaur type: big, strong, quite fierce and usually the bosses in the town.

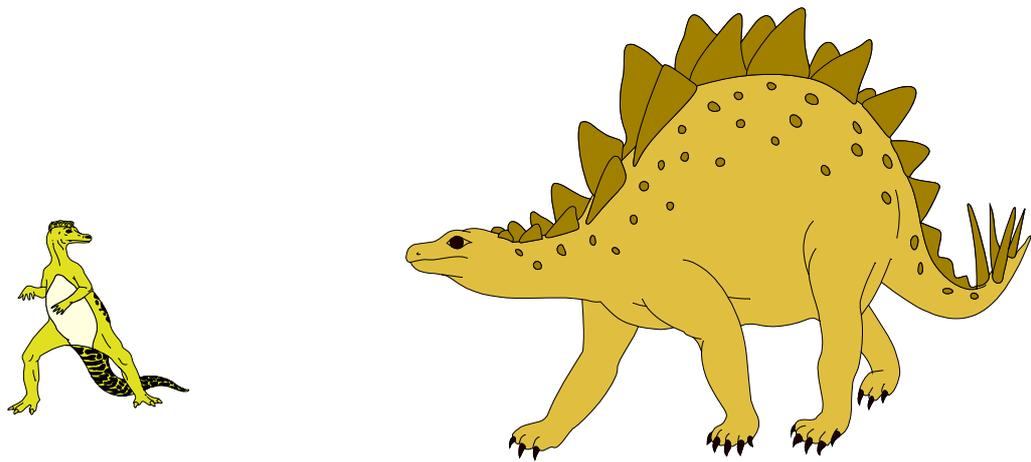
However, there were one or two quieter types: the nodosauruses, the plateosauruses and the lambeosauruses.

One lambeosaurus was a small lad called Lingo.

Lingo was a quiet, gentle character who also loved to study hard.

He would much rather be out searching for interesting rocks near the extinct volcanos or finding specimens in the swamps to put under his microscope, than playing dinoball with the other lads.

Besides, the others at his school were all carnosaur and allosauruses, and they weren't very friendly towards Lingo. He was too quiet and they were dare-devils, always getting into fights. They had gangs and it was "cool" to belong. But no-one asked Lingo to join.



Every morning Lingo felt miserable about going to school. What would they do to him today? Take his lunch from him? Play a joke on him? Or dare him to be naughty in class? Lingo did not know how he could tell anyone what was happening to him.

So he had to go to school pretending everything was alright.

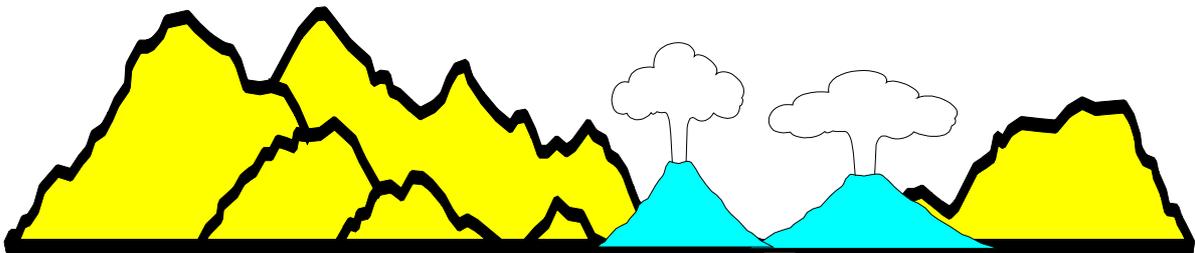
After school, they would try to take his scarf from him, to throw in a puddle.

If he could he would run away from the others and go to his favourite lonely spot to cry for a while.

He wished a volcano would once again erupt and cover up the school so he wouldn't have to go any more. That might also end the problem of the bullies, but Lingo was so gentle he did not like to think of them getting hurt.

Lingo sobbed, curled up beside a huge rock. He realised that something in his secret place was different from usual. He looked around, sniffed and touched the rock and earth. It was a puzzle. What could be wrong? Lingo noticed that he was covered in shivery goose pimples. Slowly he realised what was wrong.

The ground was *warm* and there was the hint of an awful smell in the air. "It's a volcano!" gasped Lingo. His wish was going to come true! A volcano would cover his school and probably the town as well!



Would Lingo run away and leave the bullies to their fate? Or would he run back to the town to warn them?

"I must save the town!" he cried as he dashed off.



We do not know what happened when he gave them the message. Did they believe him? Probably they did and packed their belongings in a panic to scurry off in all directions. The town would have been covered up leaving no trace of the dinosaur civilisation.

Perhaps some dinosaurs managed to escape by squeezing their enormous bodies into nooks and crannies to hide away. When they came back out they may have been much smaller in size, like our lizards today, and no longer able to be big bullies.

But they should be thankful to Lingo for having survived, because he had a kind and gentle heart, even to those who had been cruel to him.

What do you think?

