



FEATHERED FRIENDS?

Velociraptor Mongoliensis



Fred Wierum
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Paleontologists have found evidence that all dinosaurs may have had feathers. This is very different to the images we see in books and in films. What would the movie *Jurassic Park* have looked like with feathered dinosaurs? This picture shows what a Velociraptor may have really looked like.

Was the Tyrannosaurus Rex covered in feathers? It's likely that it did have some feathers, perhaps when it was young with fewer feathers as an older dinosaur.



WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

you have ever held a feather, you will know how delicate they are. Fossils of feather remains are extremely rare. Paleontologists have to look at all the evidence and as they learn more about dinosaurs and they find more and more evidence, they can tell us more about these amazing creatures. Some recent discoveries have shown that probably all dinosaurs had at least some feathers. The biggest dinosaurs (like Tyrannosaurus Rex) probably only had a few as fully grown adults.

Does this mean that dinosaurs could fly? No, scientists actually don't know why dinosaurs evolved to have feathers although it could simply have been to keep warm. Feathered dinosaurs did evolve and the evidence shows the dinosaur *Archaeopteryx* that lived about 150 million years ago. This did evolve wings and was capable of flight, leading to the birds we see today.



H. Raab
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This amazing fossil of an archaeopteryx feather was discovered in Germany around 1860