



Tyrannosaurus Rex Tooth

Late Cretaceous, approx. 67 million years ago, Montana, U.S.A.

Fossilised tooth

L: 8.2 cm

The tooth of an adult Tyrannosaurus Rex, dating to the Late Cretaceous period, is approximately 67 million years old. This large, beautifully preserved specimen has a rich brown enamel, near-perfect serrations and a rounded tip. An extraordinary fossil from the famed 'King of the Dinosaurs'.

Perhaps no predator in history has achieved the same notoriety as the iconic Tyrannosaurus Rex. The T. rex could grow up to 12.2 metres tall and could weigh up to 7000 kilograms. Its jaw, lined with 60 saw-edged teeth, was powerful enough to apply 6 tonnes of pressure in one bite – enough to crush a car. The T. rex's stiff skull allowed it to channel all the force of its muscles into its bite. The skulls also featured vents, like those found in alligators, to regulate the temperature of the dinosaur's brain while it exerted itself. Tyrannosaurus rex was also adept at finding its prey thanks to a keen sense of smell.

While scientists have known for a while that this dinosaur devoted large portions of its brain to processing smell, studies have recently revealed that T. rex had almost as many genes encoding its olfactory receptors as a house cat does today. This powerful snout also likely helped T. rex find mates and detect other predators.