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Gorgosaurus Tooth

Fossilised tooth

USA

Late Cretaceous, approx. 76 million years ago

The tooth of an adult Gorgosaurus, dating to the Late Cretaceous period, approximately 67 million years old. This large beautifully preserved specimen has a rich brown enamel, near perfect serrations and a rounded tip.

Gorgosaurus, meaning 'dreadful lizard', was a genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaur the lived approximately 76 million years ago in western North America. A large bipedal predator, Gorgosaurus could reach lengths of nine metres, and could weigh as much as three tonnes. At the end of its S-shaped neck, the Gorgosaurus' head housed dozens of long, slim, double-edged serrated teeth. The dentition in the front of the snout were D-shaped, like this example, while those in the rear of the jaws were ovoid, making them ideal for piercing and cutting.

The family Tyrannosauridae includes both North American and Asian super predators such as Tyrannosaurus, Tarbosaurus, Albertosaurus, Daspletosaurus and others. Gorgosaurus is considered a cousin species to Tyrannosaurus rex, which it predates by about ten million years. Fossils such as this are crucial to understanding the evolutionary diversity of the entire Tyrannosaurid family.

