

Which long neck is which?

Long neck dinosaurs are called sauropods. Read the clue, then spot it in the picture!



Brachiosaurus

Say it: BRAK-ee-oh-SORE-us

Look for: front legs longer than its back legs, so its body tilts up at the front, a bit like a giraffe.

About 22 meters (72 feet) long. Its name means “arm lizard”.

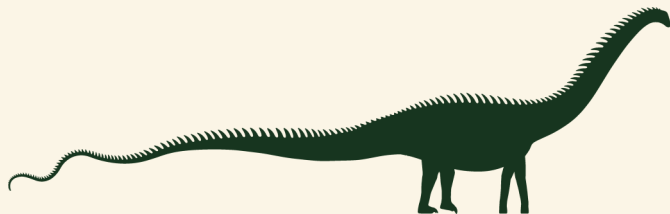


Apatosaurus

Say it: ah-PAT-oh-SORE-us

Look for: a thick, heavy neck set low on its body, a chunky body, and a long, thin tail like a whip.

Up to 23 meters (75 feet) long. Its look-alike cousin Brontosaurus was a little slimmer.



Diplodocus

Say it: DIP-low-DOCK-us

Look for: long and slim, with a very long tail like a whip, and maybe a row of pointed spines down its back.

About 26 meters (85 feet) long. Its name means “double beam”.



Mamenchisaurus

Say it: mah-MEN-chee-SORE-us

Look for: the longest neck of the lot.

One kind had a neck about 15 meters (49 feet) long, maybe the longest of any dinosaur. It lived in China.



Titanosaurs, like Patagotitan

Say it: tie-TAN-oh-sores

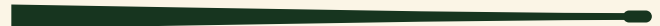
Look for: SIZE! The titanosaurs were the biggest long necks of all.

Patagotitan was 37.5 meters (123 feet) long, longer than three school buses.

The longest neck ever

Drawn to scale. Mamenchisaurus beats a giraffe by more than eight necks!

Mamenchisaurus neck, about 15 m (49 ft)



A school bus, about 12 m (40 ft)



Giraffe neck, about 1.8 m (6 ft)



Outlines via PhyloPic: Brachiosaurus by Michael P. Taylor; Apatosaurus and Diplodocus by Jagged Fang Designs; Mamenchisaurus after Young and Zhao (all public domain); the titanosaur (Dreadnoughtus) by Scott Hartman, CC BY 3.0; the giraffe neck from San Diego Zoo. Facts from the Natural History Museum, London, and Katia's facts in Dinosaurs Are Back.