

Celebrate our State Fossil: Build Your Own Stegosaurus

Did you know that the Stegosaurus was named Colorado's state fossil in 1982? Build your very own Stegosaurus using household materials. Then, discover a little bit about how the Stegosaurus lived!

Supplies:

All supplies are optional. Use what you have!

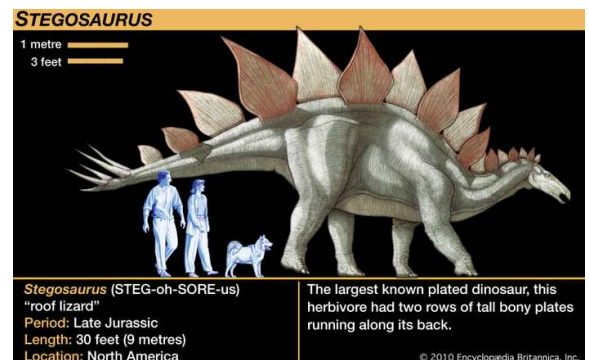
- Air dry clay or play-doh for the Stegosaurus body
- Cardboard or paper plates for the Stegosaurus plates
- Construction paper for the Stegosaurus spikes
- Glue or tape
- Markers
- Paint



Scientists can only guess what color dinosaurs were... so make your Stegosaurus whatever color you would like!

Instructions:

1. Build your Stegosaurus! Be innovative with your materials, and use the graphic to help guide you! Here is one way you could build your stegosaurus:
 - a. Did you know that the Stegosaurus was around 21 feet long and 30 feet tall in real life? Since we'll be making a model in this activity – or a smaller version of the original -- decide how big you want your Stegosaurus to be for this purpose.
 - b. Use play-doh to make the body. The Stegosaurus is known to have a small skull, short upper limbs, broad feet, and a relatively long tail.
 - c. Use the cardboard to make the Stegosaurus's plates. The plates are mostly triangular. Press these cardboard plates into the Stegosaurus body in an alternating pattern. (*Fun fact: did you know that no two plates from the same Stegosaurus are identical?*)



Drawing of Stegosaurus from Encyclopedia Britannica.

- d. Cut down your construction paper. Use the pieces to make 4 spikes. Press these spikes into the Stegosaurus tail.
 - e. Paint or color your Stegosaurus if desired.
2. Behold your 3D Stegosaurus creation!

Questions to Ponder:

1. How might a Stegosaurus use its plates? What about its spikes? Why do you think?
2. Stegosauruses have very small, flat teeth. What other animals have flat teeth? What do you think Stegosaurus was eating based on its teeth?
3. Study the picture of the Stegosaurus, along with your 3D creation. Based on its anatomy (how it is structured), how do you think a Stegosaurus would look when it moved?

Research your answers here: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/stegosaurus-brought-to-life.html>

References and Additional Information:

Povid, K. (n.d.). *A Stegosaurus brought to life*. Natural History Museum.
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/stegosaurus-brought-to-life.html>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). Stegosaurus. In *Encyclopedia Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/animal/Stegosaurus>