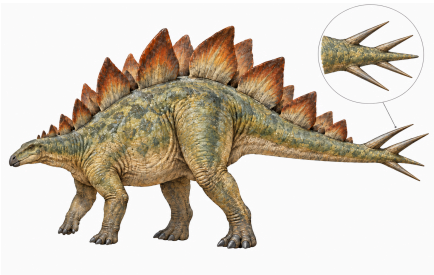
Stegosaurus

Observe

Choose 1–3 tasks. Point, say or draw; writing is optional.

1 · Look

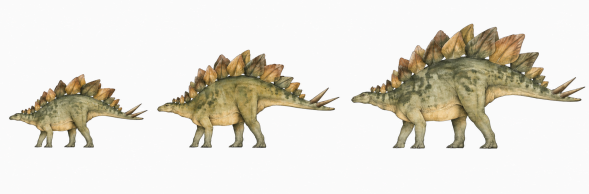
Point to the plates and tail spikes. How do their positions and shapes differ?



Reconstruction with a tail-tip inset; colors are illustration choices.

2 · Choose

Name the growth stages. Can picture size tell us an exact age?



Growth sequence, not an age or size scale.

Yes | No

3 · Choose

Who eats plants? Which link is possible? Name an unknown.



Plants, Stegosaurus, Allosaurus; arrows on the knowledge card.

Eats plants | Plate role is certain

4 · Write

Find “Plates” on the knowledge card. Say it; write it if you wish.

Plates

5 · Draw

Draw a plate or tail-spike detail. Mark two features you notice.

6 · Record

I notice: ____

I am not sure about: ____

I could look for evidence by: ____ (or draw/say)

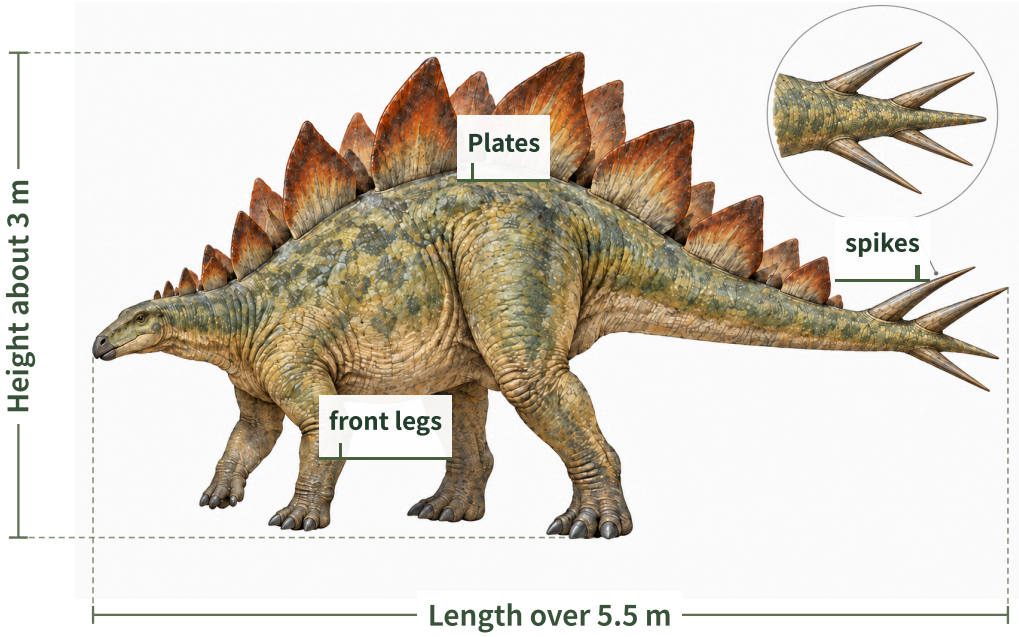
Stegosaurus

Discover

A Jurassic plant eater

Stegosaurus ate plants in the Late Jurassic. Apex lived about 150 million years ago.

Plates and spikes



Other specimens reach up to 9 m long

Height and length: London immature mounted skeleton • Not a measurement drawing

- **Back:** bony plates
- Shorter front legs, longer hind legs
- Sizes vary among specimens
- **Tail tip:** spikes; inset from above
- Reconstruction; illustrative colors
- Length alone cannot establish age

Habitat • London specimen

- **Location:** Wyoming, USA
- Not the only Stegosaurus habitat
- Fairly dry; ferns, cycads, horsetails, some conifers

Reproduction • young from eggs

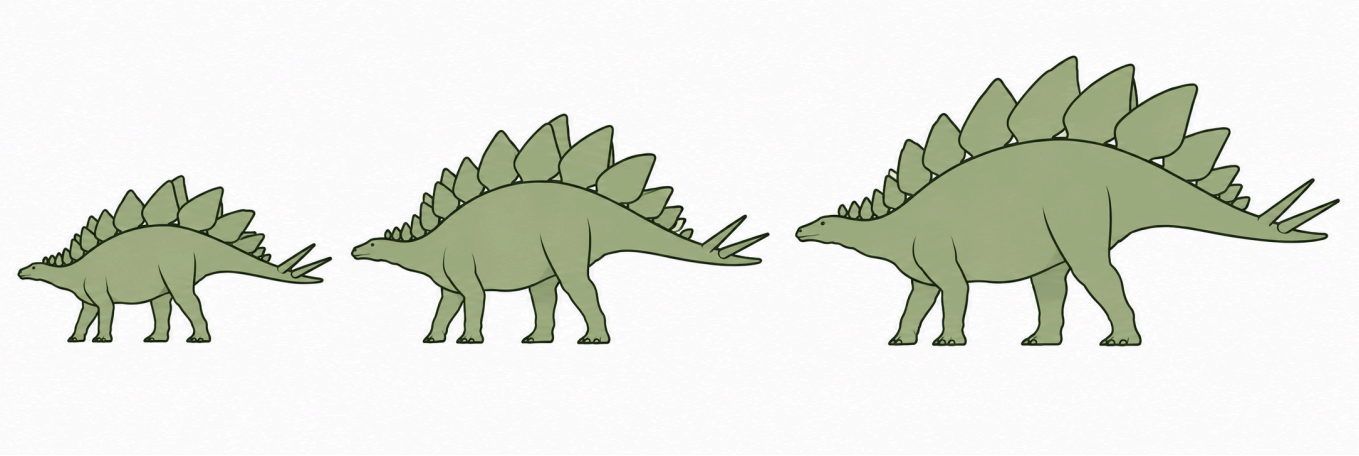
Egg laying → **Embryo develops** → **Young hatches**

- **Basis:** inference from dinosaurs, not a Stegosaurus nest reconstruction
- **Partly known:** Not established here: Stegosaurus egg shape, clutch size or care

Stegosaurus

Discover

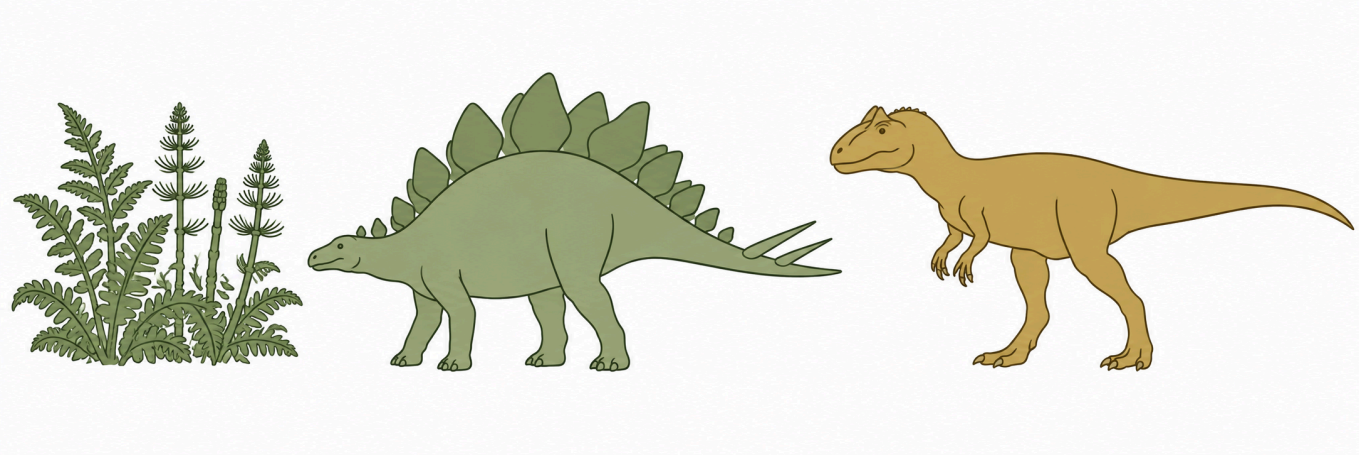
Three growth stages



Juvenile → **Subadult** → **Adult**

- Some bone gaps close during growth
- **London:** some bone gaps open; growing; exact age unknown
- **Partly known:** Bone-supported stages; shapes and scale are schematic

Food links



Plants → **Stegosaurus** • • • → **Allosaurus**

- **Arrows:** food → eater
- Not every individual’ s fate
- **Partly known:** Dotted = possible predation

- **Fossil bones:** evidence for reconstruction; pictures alone are not evidence
- **Actual colors:** no direct evidence
- **Plates:** possible display; function still studied

Sources: AMNH • NHM • Hayashi 2012