

BABY
Loves

Paleontology!

Ruth
Spiro

Illustrated by
Irene Chan



Baby loves to dig.
Maybe she'll find something special
deep down in the ground,
like a fossil!





A fossil is something left behind by an animal, plant, or other living thing from long ago:

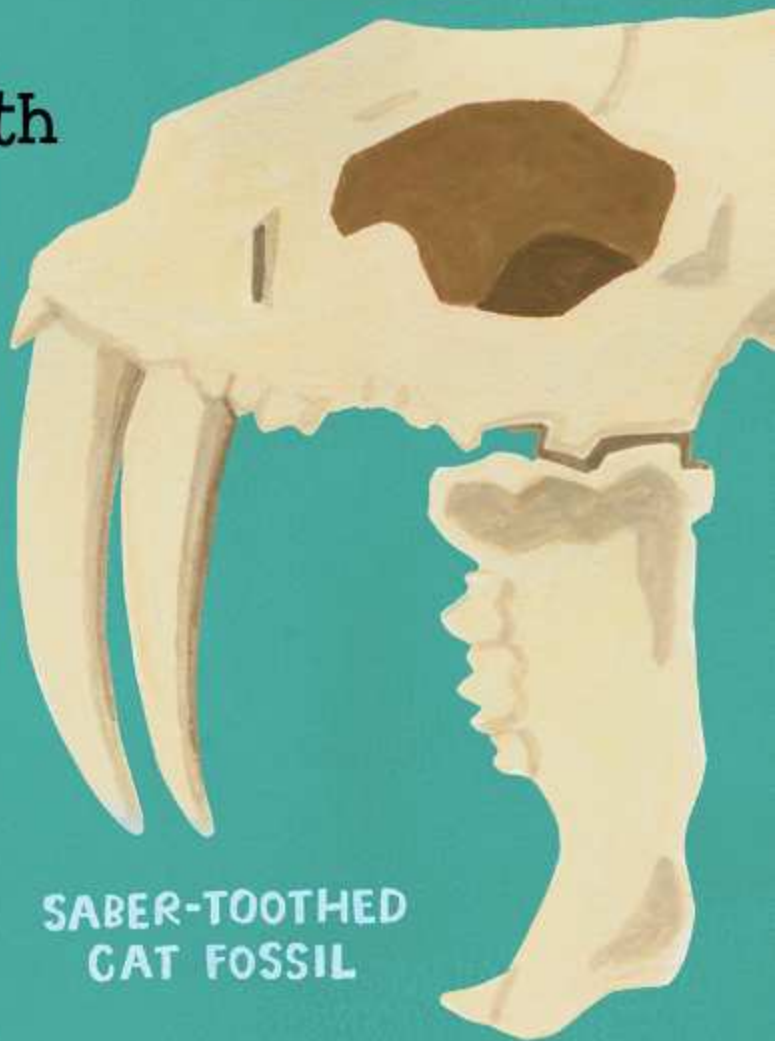


an imprint of
an ancient leaf,



footprints from
prehistoric animals,

or even bones or teeth
that have been
preserved.



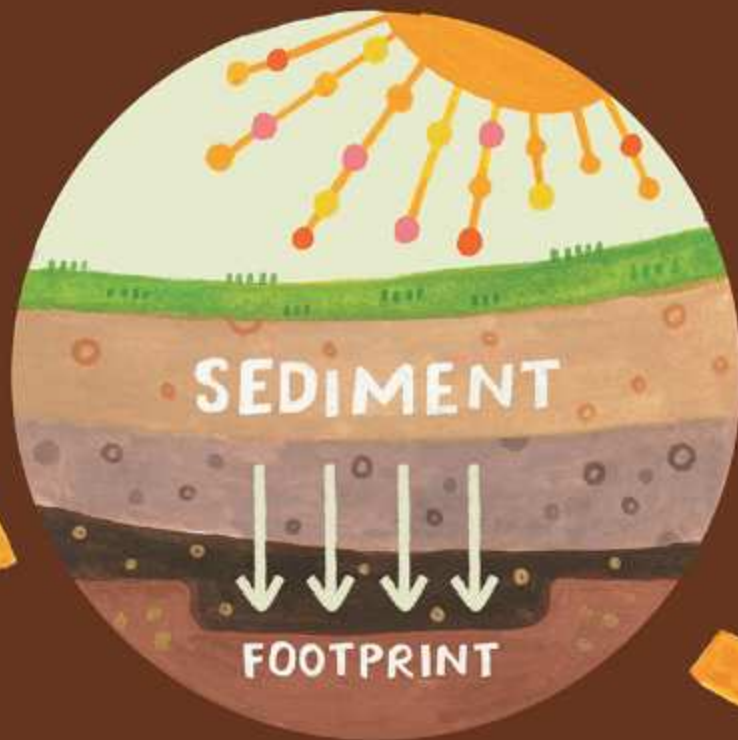
SABER-TOOTHED
CAT FOSSIL

Fossils can form in different ways.

Sometimes an animal steps in wet sand, leaving a footprint.



The sand is buried by layers of earth called sediment.



Over time, the sand turns to rock,
preserving the footprint.
This is a fossil!



Sometimes when an animal dies and decomposes, only its skeleton remains.



The skeleton may get buried.

Groundwater seeps in.
Minerals in the water fill in
the hollow spaces in the bones.



Now the bones are as
hard as rock! They are
another kind of fossil.

Paleontologists are scientists who study the history of life using fossils. They dig the fossils out of rock with special tools.





Baby thinks that sounds like fun.
Maybe she'll find a hidden fossil, too!

Fossils can be small . . .



**INSECT
PRESERVED
IN AMBER**



SHELL



POOP!



AMMONITE



TEETH



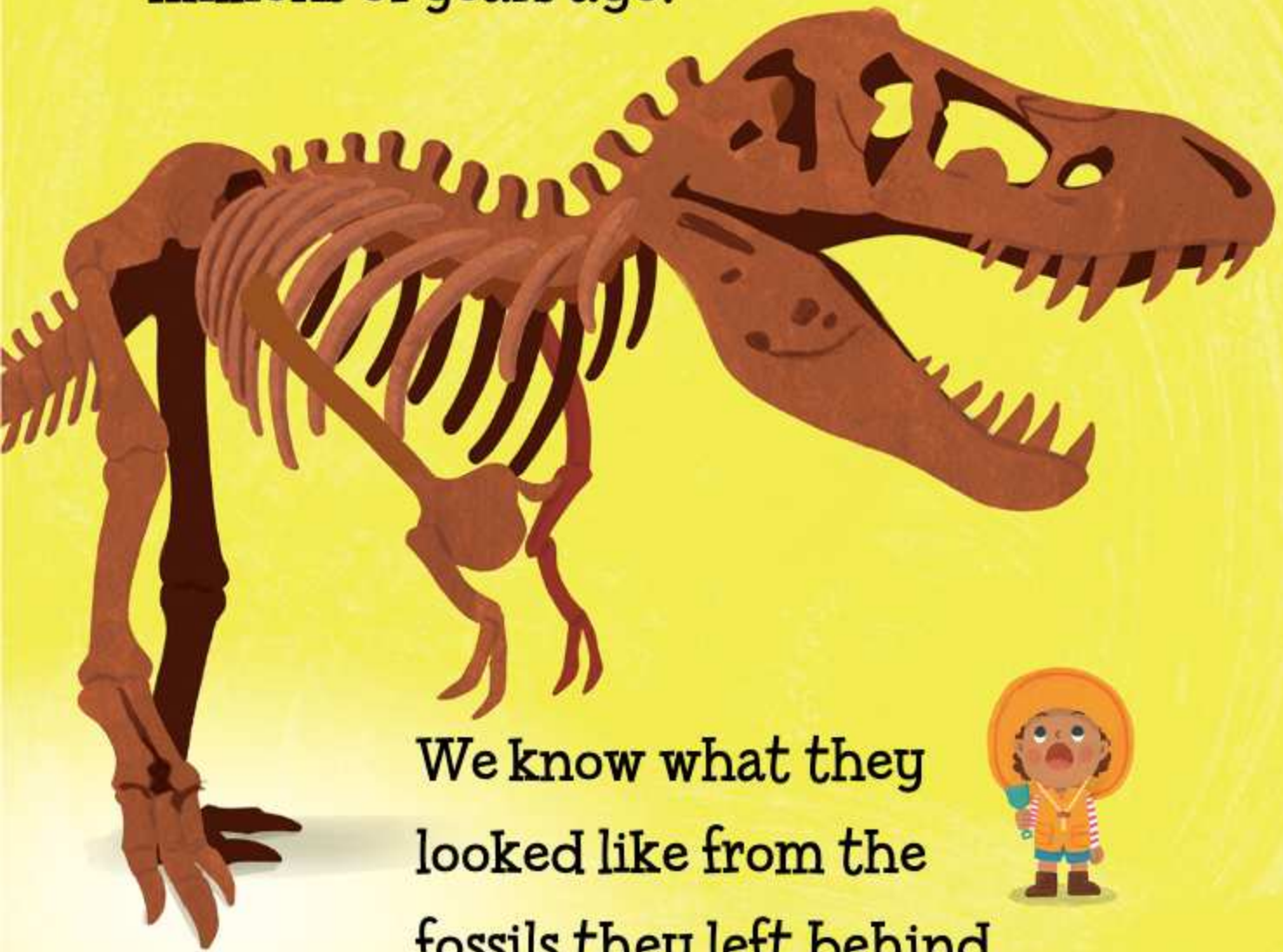
SEAHORSE



or very, very big.
The biggest fossils
come from . . .



dinosaurs! Some dinosaurs lived
millions of years ago.



We know what they
looked like from the
fossils they left behind.

Other dinosaurs are still alive today.
Birds are dinosaurs, too.

Hello, Dinosaur!



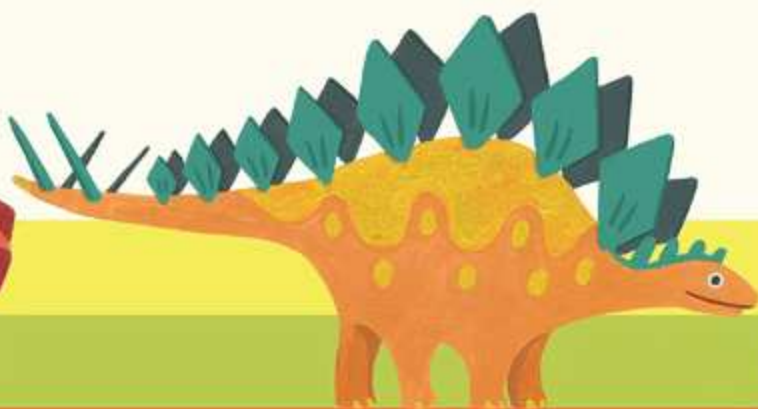
Long ago, dinosaurs came in all sizes and shapes. Some had long necks; big, sharp teeth; or powerful tails.



TYRANNOSAURUS REX

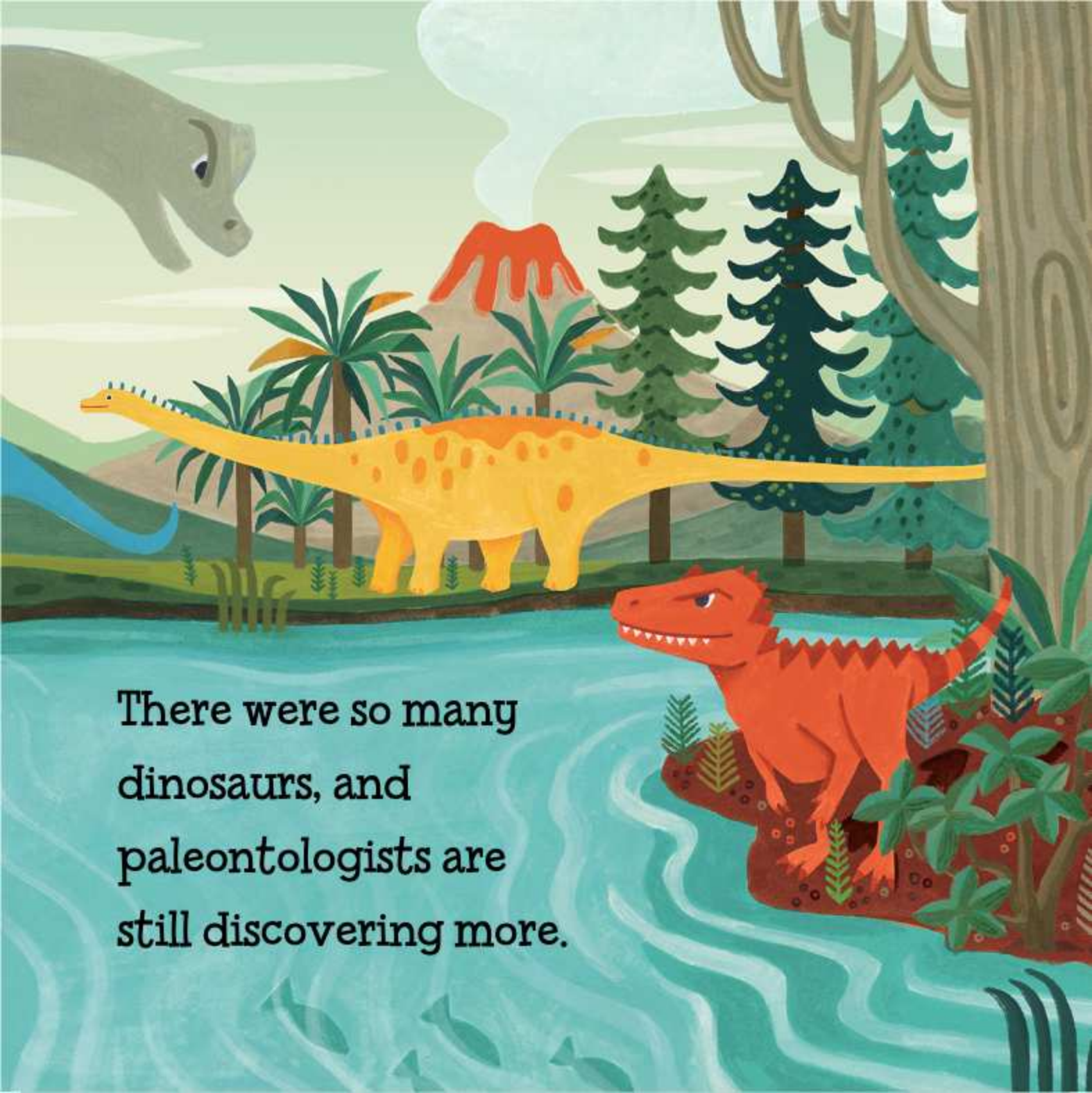
TRICERATOPS

Some had horns,
tough body armor,
or even feathers.



BABY!





There were so many
dinosaurs, and
paleontologists are
still discovering more.





Baby loves paleontology!



BABY Loves Science

Little books about big ideas

Baby loves to dig. Maybe she'll find a buried fossil. Discover how fossils form and what they tell us about life long ago—including dinosaurs!



Also available:



For every early childhood educator who helps our youngest learners find joy every day.—R. S.

For our future paleontologists: Keep digging, exploring, and discovering!—I. C.

Very special thanks to Dr. Fred Bortz, William Simpson, Collections Manager of Fossil Vertebrates at the Field Museum; and Marlene Hill Donnelly, Geology Associate at the Field Museum, for their invaluable expertise and advice.

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