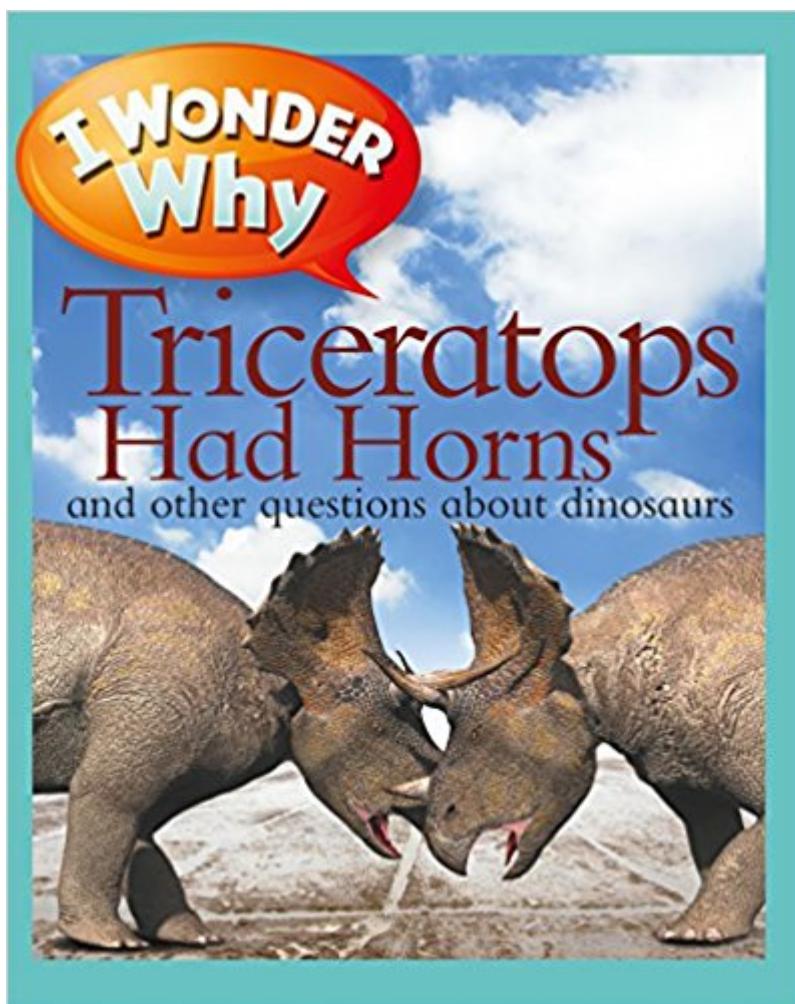


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# I Wonder Why Triceratops Had Horns: And Other Questions About Dinosaurs



## **Synopsis**

Dinosaur fans will quickly find out why some dinosaurs ate stones in this prehistoric problem solver.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Series: I Wonder Why

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Kingfisher (March 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 075346523X

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Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #559,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Fossils #638 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology #714 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Answers are simply written, but they don't shy away from scientific language, difficult issues, or remaining mysteries. • Children's Literature

Rod Theodorou

This whole series of books are favorites of my three grandchildren...they are 5, 4 and 2 and even the two year old will sit for 1/2 hour or longer reviewing what he's learned from our reading times - he tells wonderful, factual stories about the pictures...dinosaurs and Spiders Spin Webs are special... Even though these are only made of paper (covers included), my 2-year old has learned how to care for paper books and rarely has tearing problem when 'reading' by himself. Both boys especially love the inside back cover where all the books are shown so they can ask for the next one they want.

My 4yr daughter has always been extremely inquisitive. Her teachers call her the "Queen of Why". She absolutely loves this series. She received her first set from Chick-fil-a in her kids meal. She loved them so much that I searched for more. Her current favorite is I Wonder Why Triceratops Had Horns. Perfect gift for the kid who always asks why... and it's an even better gift for the parents of that kid!

I bought this book for my 9 year old daughter who just loves anything dinosaurs! This book is full of fun and interesting facts and she could not put it down. The pictures are colorful and captured her attention. This book is good for any child who is interested in learning about dinosaurs.

Short version: The combination of unanswered questions, wrongly-answered questions, & everything in between makes reading Theodorou's "I Wonder Why Triceratops Had Horns: and Other Questions about Dinosaurs" (henceforth Wonder) like playing "Battle Kid: Fortress of Peril" (Google "Game Grumps Animated - Hardest Boss EVER - by CatFat" for what I mean). If you want to know "Why Triceratops Had Horns", google "Old wounds show that Triceratops used its horns for combat". Long version: Read on. As you may remember, I generally dislike the dino Q&A genre for 3 main reasons: 1) Redundant questions; 2) Vague answers; 3) Bad Q&As (i.e. Stupid or misleading questions & misleading or wrong answers). However, when I originally said that, I was specifically referring to adult dino Q&A books. Children's dino Q&A books in general & Wonder in particular are even worse:-Redundant questions? Uncheck (There are only 30 questions), but Wonder more than makes up for this in the following ways.-Vague answers? Check times infinity! The 1st Theodorou quote is the worst because 1) the main text completely dodges 1 of the biggest questions in science, & 2) the sidebar text only mentions invalid hypotheses (i.e. Poisonous plants & periodic comet showers).-Bad Q&As? Check times infinity! The 2nd Theodorou quote is the worst because it fails on many levels: It contradicts itself from a previous Q&A (See the 1st Theodorou quote; If "all the dinosaurs vanished", then there wouldn't be "any dinosaurs around today"); It fails to understand how evolution works (If birds "developed from dinosaurs", then they ARE "true dinosaurs"); It avoids using the word "evolution" (as does the rest of Wonder); It fails to understand that "developed" =/= "evolved" (Google "Common Past, Different Paths" & in the 1st link, see "Backgrounder"). But wait, there's more!:-Wonder is a confusing mess in terms of organization. This is especially apparent in the Q&As about reconstructing & finding dino fossils: For 1, you have to find dino fossils BEFORE you can reconstruct them; For another, the text explaining said processes is scattered all over with

no apparent rhyme or reason.-Wonder's more realistic reconstructions are shameless rip-offs of more famous reconstructions, just plain outdated/abominable, or some combination of both. This is especially apparent in the Apatosaurus reconstructions: For 1, they're shameless rip-offs of the "Safari Ltd Carnegie Scale Model Apatosaurus", Sibbick's "Normanpedia" Apatosaurus, & Hallett's "Zoobooks - Dinosaurs" Apatosaurus; For another, they combine "a Sibbickian concentric ring skin pattern with a finely polished finish reminiscent of a 4x4 vehicle purchased by a money-crazed, wantonly aggressive businessperson" (Google "Vintage Dinosaur Art: Dinosaurs! The 1987 Childcraft Annual - Part 1").-Wonder's more cartoony reconstructions are even worse: For 1, not only are most of them unrecognizable as the genera they're intended to represent, but the others are only recognizable because they're shameless rip-offs of more famous reconstructions; For another, not only are all of them unfunny, but some of them are also very disturbing (E.g. Why are a bat & a pterosaur giving each other "do me" eyes?; Why was that woman drilling into a living Ankylosaurus?; etc).Quoting Theodorou: "What happened to the dinosaurs?Something very strange happened 65 million years ago. All the dinosaurs vanished, together with all the flying reptiles and most of the sea reptiles. No one knows for sure what happened to them."Quoting Theodorou: "Are there any dinosaurs around today?Although there aren't any true dinosaurs alive today, we do have some of their relatives. Scientists think that birds developed from dinosaurs, because their skeletons are so similar. So look carefully the next time you see a bird nesting in a tree or hopping across the grass!"

Even though the title above also has (and Other Questions About Dinosaurs). I bought the book for a school project my daughter had. The title is deceiving because it gives you the impression that it talks more about Triceratops when only a page or less is about triceratops the rest are of the types of dinosaurs. So, I was a bit dissapointed with this book.

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