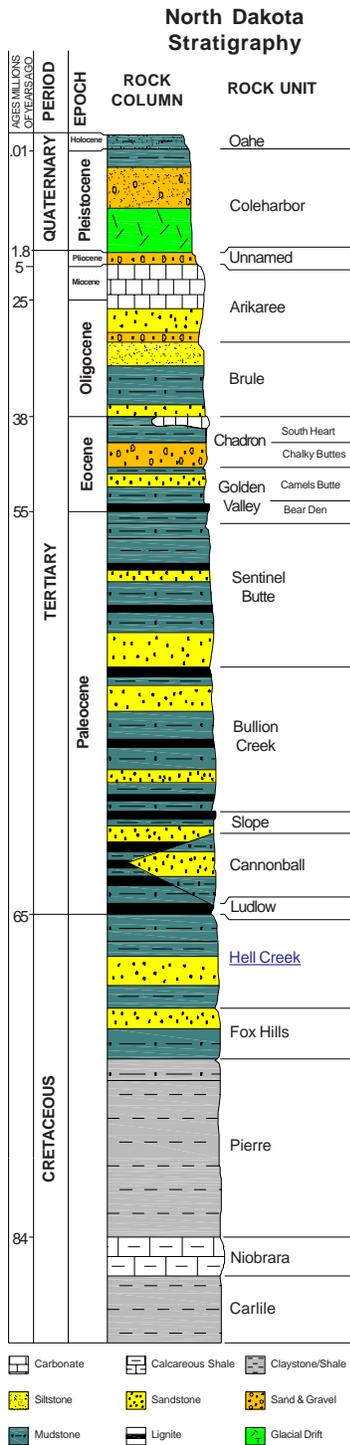


# Tyrannosaurus rex



**Common Name:**  
Tyrant reptile king

**Classification:**  
**Class:** Reptilia  
**Order:** Saurischia  
**Family:** Tyrannosauridae



*Tyrannosaurus rex* shed tooth. Tooth collected in Morton County. Height of tooth is 64 mm. North Dakota State Fossil Collection.

**Description:**  
*Tyrannosaurus rex* was one of the largest carnivorous (meat eating) dinosaurs and was one of the largest terrestrial carnivores yet known. The adults grew to lengths of 40 feet from the end of the tail to tip of the nose and weighed about 8 tons. When they stood on their hind legs they were up to about 20 feet tall. They had huge heads, about 5 feet long, and possessed large, approximately 50, dagger-like teeth, some as large as bananas. The teeth, which were serrated, could puncture bone and carve through flesh of prey. Its back legs were long, heavily built, and powerful with 3 clawed toes on each foot. Each foot was broad with three forward-pointing toes. Each toe ended in a sharply-curved talon. *T. rex*'s arms were very short and contained hands with only two, clawed fingers on each hand. Its tail was long, heavy, and held off the ground to act as a counterbalance. They could tear off as much as about 500 pounds of flesh at one time with their powerful jaws. They had a keen sense of smell and could travel at high speeds for short distances. Hadrosaurs, the duckbilled dinosaurs, were among the prey of *T. rex*.

No complete skeletons of *T. rex* have been found in North Dakota, but *T. rex* teeth and bones have been recovered from several fossil sites in the state.



Locations where fossils have been found



*Tyrannosaurus rex*. Painting by, and courtesy of, John Sibbick.