

$$\frac{1}{10} = \frac{10}{100}$$



$$0.1 = 0.10$$

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$$0.1 = 0.10$$

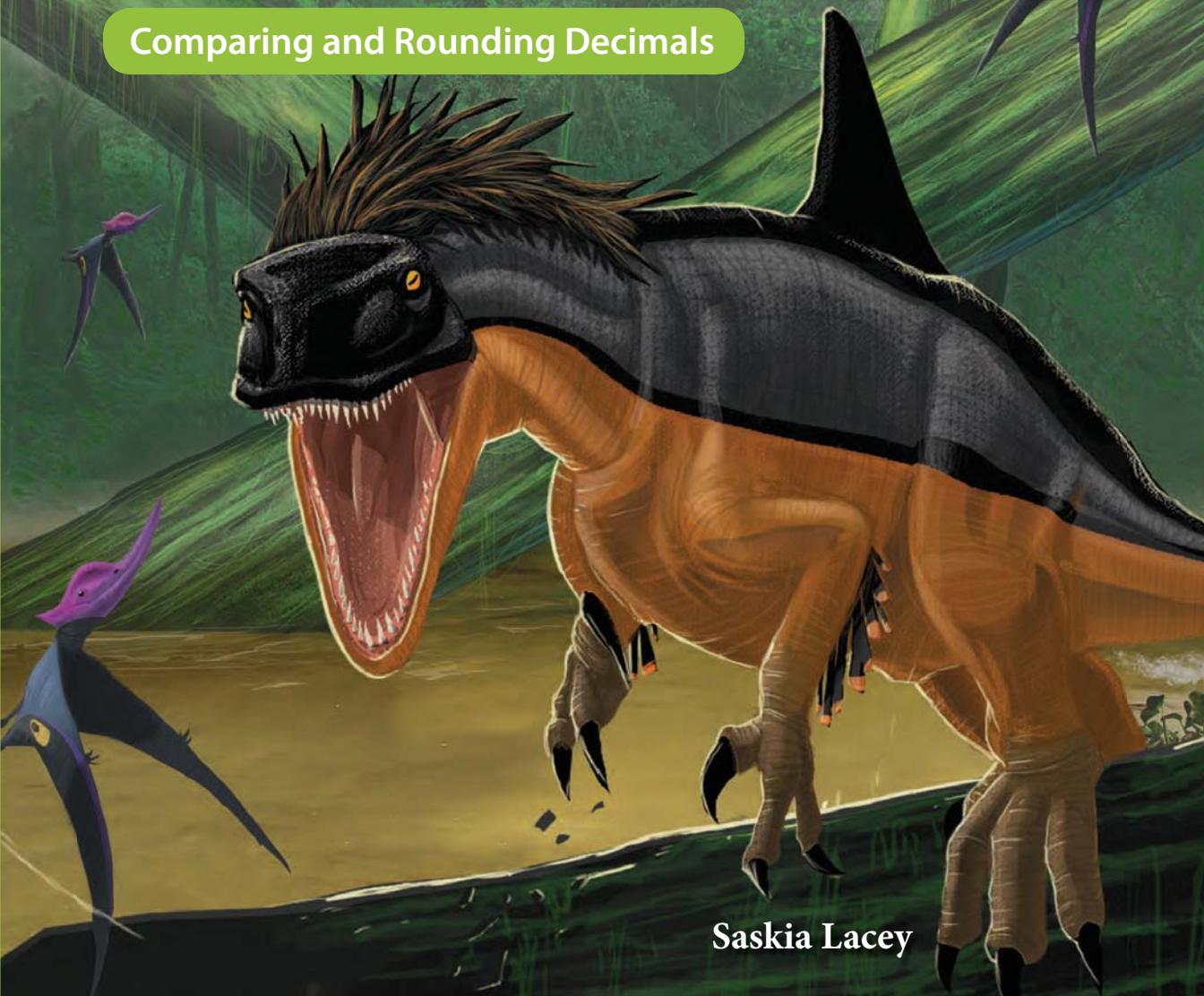
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Amazing  
Animals

# EXTREME Dinosaurs

Comparing and Rounding Decimals



Saskia Lacey



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# The Meaning of Extreme

The word *extreme* is used quite a bit. People use it to describe nearly everything. They use it to describe food and sports. Sometimes the word is used to talk about TV shows and hobbies. There are extreme nappers, extreme cyclists, and extreme eaters. You name the activity, and someone is doing it in an “extreme” way. But, can all these activities really be called extreme?

Take a peek at the word’s definition. *Extreme* means “exceeding the ordinary, usual, or expected.” To put it simply, something that is extreme is outside of the “norm.”

Dinosaurs were amazing reptiles. Some were truly extreme. These beasts existed during the Mesozoic (MEH-so-zoh-ick) era. They battled the wilderness and each other to survive. Each dinosaur had its own unique **adaptations**. But there were some dinosaurs that stood out from the rest. They were the biggest and fiercest. They were the strangest or most dangerous prehistoric reptiles. These dinosaurs have names like Titanosaurus. They are the ones that earned the title of extreme!



The Spinosaurus was an extreme dinosaur because it was the only one that scientists believe lived on land and in water.



# Biggest Brutes

The longest land animals in history were mighty and strong. Each of these big brutes earns the right to be called extreme!

titanosaurs



## Titans of the Prehistoric World

The world's largest dinosaurs were plant eaters. They were part of the sauropod family. The largest and longest sauropods were from the diplodocid and titanosaur groups. Though extreme in size, titanosaurs were not vicious creatures.

In 2013, a new species of titanosaur was found in Patagonia. Hundreds of bones were discovered. This species may be the largest animal to ever stomp the earth. So, just how big was this extinct animal? It may have weighed around 70 tons (63,503 kilograms). That is the combined weight of more than 20 elephants! It was over 130 feet (40 meters) long and 65 ft. (20 m) tall. Picture a five-story building stomping around, and you can imagine how big titanosaurs were.

The titanosaur's heart might be one of its most extreme traits. It was a huge organ that was about 6 ft. (2 m) around—about the height of a man. With each beat, the titanosaur's heart pumped 24 gallons (91 liters) of blood.

Over the years, many reptiles have held the title of biggest ancient creature. Brontosaurus and Diplodocus are a few former titleholders. But some scientists believe that titanosaurs dwarf both those species.

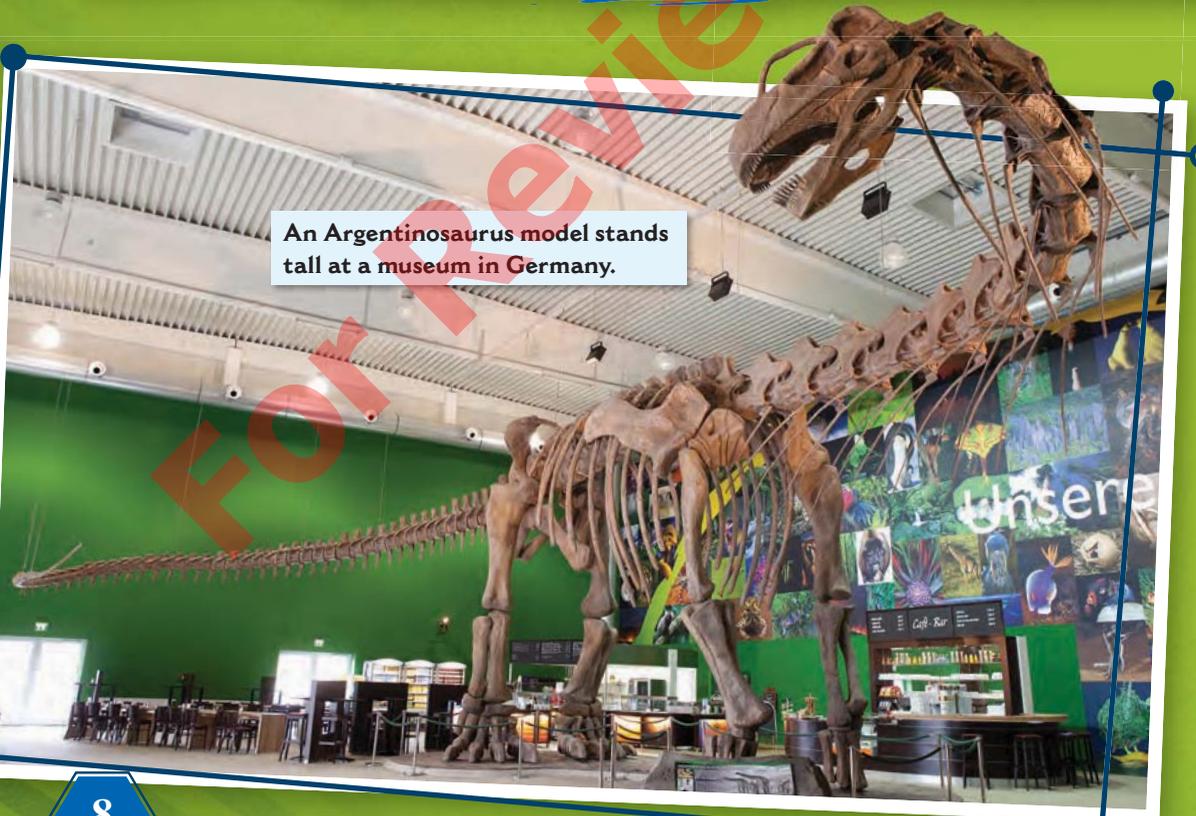


Scientists believe this fossilized femur, or thigh bone, is from a sauropod.

## Argentinosaurus

When talking about the biggest sauropods, this giant is bound to come up. It is known as Argentinosaurus. Some scientists think it was the largest creature to ever live. Others think that the titanosaur from Patagonia holds the title. So, who is correct? Which dinosaur was the biggest?

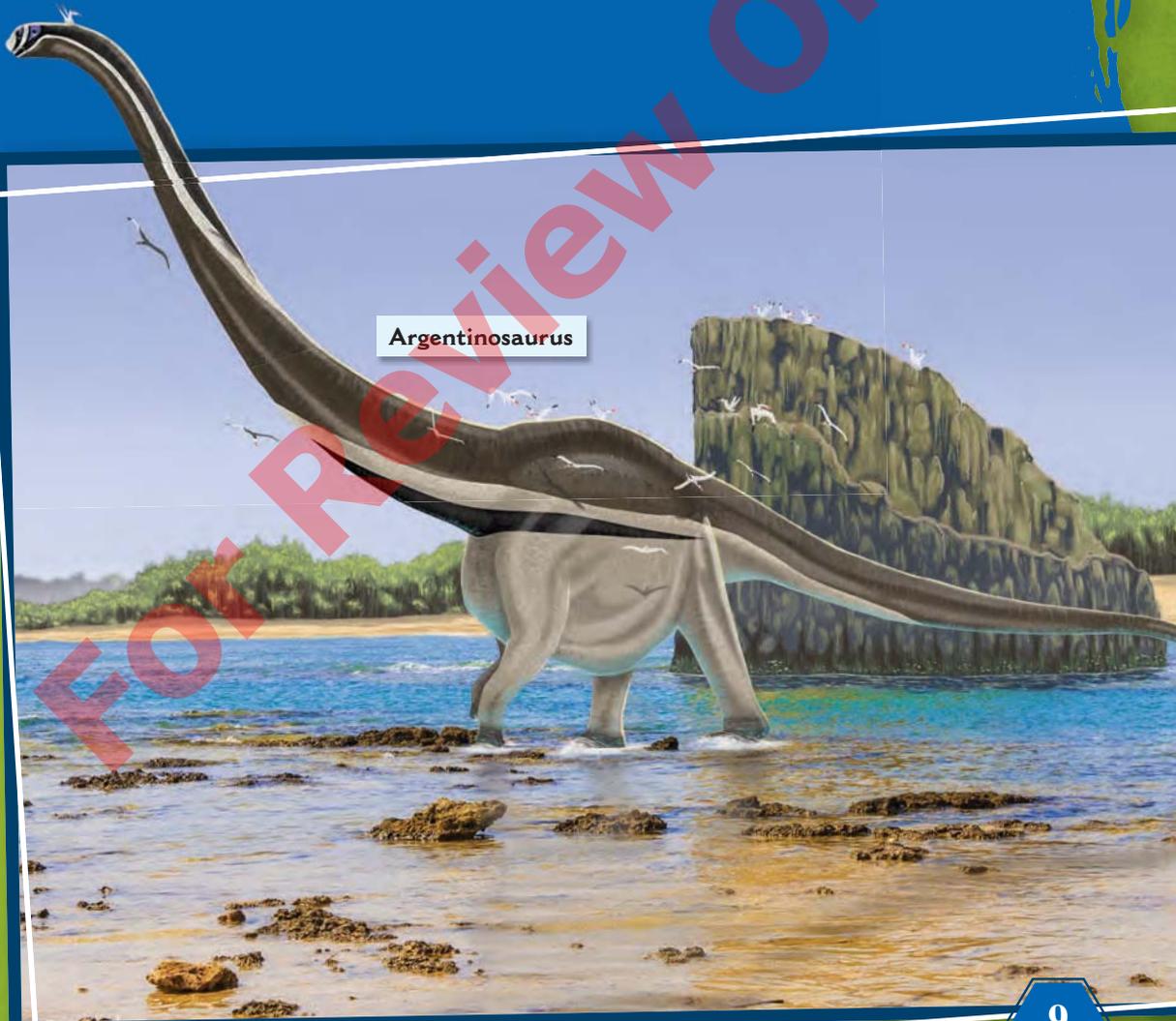
Well, it is hard to say. There is a problem with naming any dinosaur as the biggest. There really is not enough evidence to support such a claim. Scientists often have only **fragments** of the creatures. They discover a **vertebra** here or a leg **bone** there. They use these fragments to estimate the size of the creature. Of course, if new **fossils** are found of a more complete dinosaur, then experts revise their **estimations**.

A large, brown-colored skeleton of an Argentinosaurus is displayed in a museum. The skeleton is mounted on a platform and is the central focus of the image. The museum has a green wall and a white ceiling. In the background, there is a bar area with a menu board and a sign that says "insere".

An Argentinosaurus model stands tall at a museum in Germany.

So, Argentinosaurus's status as the biggest creature is still up for debate. Still, scientists are sure that it will count as one of the largest of all time.

The giant creature's bones were discovered in the late 1980s and early 1990s. A rancher in Argentina found a portion of its vertebra. The rancher thought the large bone was just a piece of wood! But a few years later, the bones were determined to be ancient.



# Math Talk

1. Alonso reads 3.812 as “Three point eight-one-two.” What advice can you give him to use place value to read the decimal correctly?
2. How are thousands and thousandths different?
3. How can you use a number line to help you round a decimal?
4. Darcy thinks that 0.190 is greater than 0.19 because 190 is greater than 19. What error did Darcy make?
5. Zara says, “I can write a fraction for every decimal.” Do you agree or disagree with her? Why?
6. Why might paleontologists studying dinosaur fossils need to compare and round decimals?