

# Dinosaurs: Evidence for Rapid Burial

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Creation Research recently received the following question:

*What real practical evidence have you got that dinosaurs were buried real fast and don't just quote Noah's flood at me.*

We consulted Joe Taylor, one of the best fossil collectors we know. He provided this answer, and the illustrations below.



**Joe Taylor holding part of T-rex hips excavated 1916 in Wyoming. The bones still had collagen filaments inside! This means they were buried very rapidly under deep sediments and not exposed until 1916.**

I have collected approximately 6,000 dinosaur bones over 34 years in Texas, Montana, Dakota, and other places, so let's just consider the condition the bones are in when you first dig them up. For this we need to quickly remind ourselves what happens to bones in this present world that come from creatures that die naturally, fall to the ground, decay and or slowly get buried.

Since the world of the Dinosaurs is usually presented as a lush tropical environment, particularly in the Triassic and Cretaceous layers that I have mostly collected from, let's consider that environment first.

In today's tropical zones, bones from creatures that have died and laid around on the ground for even a short period of time stay wet, and therefore have a lot of biotic action on them, and eventually decay or are eaten by scavengers. A quick trip through the tropics will show a severe shortage of animal bones on the surface as a result.

Bones in dryer ecological zones tend to get a lot of sun exposure, dry out, crack and split and eventually lose their plasticity. This splitting lets in moisture as mist or rain, as well as sand, and plant roots, so they tend to show signs of severe decay

even if they are later buried in flash flooding. A quick trip to see dead buffalo skeletons in Texas proves this. Any present day bones that get buried by local flash floods in arid or tropical zones tend to be re-buried over and over till they wear out. None of these processes are good for preservation.



***This photo of a Texas cattle herd was taken at Swenson ranch in 1938. Of the millions of cows that died on these Texas ranches in the area where I grew up, I've found only one skull (no jaws) and one limb bone. The hot sun and violent rains insure their decay within 10 years.***



***One of my early finds of big bison bones near Crosbyton. The articulated neck and jaws of this big bull must have been buried over a period of a few months when West Texas was far wetter and sediments built up over bones of buffalo that died recently. In the last 150 years, rains have been violent and have now cut down through these sediments. The bones were not weathered before burial, but a short time of exposure today causes them to crumble and disappear. This is what would have happened to dinosaurs had they been buried slowly and eroded over and over.***

In rocks which are usually interpreted as the Triassic Swamps beds of Texas, there are crocodilian bones everywhere. I asked Dr. Craig Derstler of University of Louisiana if they ever find bones of the millions of alligators who have died in the any present day swamps, and he said, "No." The action of the swamp destroys them. Yet the fact is that almost all dinosaur bones, from Triassic and Cretaceous layers are in great shape. They do not show signs of pre-burial weathering, and seldom do dinosaur bones show evidence of having been river-rolled. Apart from breaks due to ground shifting during earthquakes, dinosaur bones are rarely broken or smashed up. Even mass death of in today's world seldom results in any vast burial zones let alone produces any fossils. Yet dinosaur bones were buried and preserved in vast numbers.

Secondly dinosaur bones are usually interpreted as having come from creatures that lived and died in the spot they were found in, but how valid is this?

We all know that creatures that die and get slowly buried soon fall apart. Skulls disconnect from back bones, jaws fall apart, etc. Yet many of the dinosaurs I have worked on show good articulation, and even when the bones have started to disarticulate, they are still in close association with the rest of the skeleton. Their bones appear to have stayed within the skin of the animal, only moving around due to explosive gasses from decay which were contained due to having been covered quickly in thick sediments. Rapid and complete burial followed by explosive trapped decay gases blowing bones apart would do this. Slow surface burial would not produce such a result.



***Triceratops skull from Hanson ranch, WYO. Ground shifting after petrification has cracked it, but when the iron concretion is removed, the bone is smooth and unweathered.***

It's the same for sea creatures buried in Cretaceous sediments. We excavated a large Tylosaur in Texas that was articulated, even though sharks had torn at it. Total destruction was somehow arrested and the Tylosaur reached the ocean floor with skin still on it. An interesting note is that many of these animals are articulated except for the abdomen area, where the vertebrae are often moved, most probably due to decay gasses in the gut moving bones around inside of a still intact body wall. But to be preserved in this way would also necessitate rapid and deep burial so the bones remain closely together and no biological action can occur on the skeleton by other digging creatures.

Bone preservation evidences alone tells us that well preserved Dinosaur skeletons not only were buried quickly but that that best source of sediment that could bury such huge creatures quickly is catastrophic flooding.



***Phytosaur jaw (giant crocodilian) as found. This was originally buried under 300 ft of sediment and is exposed because erosion since has cut a canyon down through the sediments. The bones have been subjected to root damage for decades and invasion by gypsum crystals, yet they show no signs of weathering before burial.***



***Ribs attached to articulated vertebrae of Farmersville Texas Tylosaur.***



***Triassic Metoposaur (giant salamander) skull in beautiful shape. Texas Tech Museum***

All the above evidence points to the fact that the dinosaurs died and were buried quickly in water-borne sediments, and not to the “dinosaurs lived here millions of years ago “picture painted by evolutionists.