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**THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ANNOUNCES
T. REX: *THE ULTIMATE PREDATOR***

**FROM FLUFFY HATCHLING TO MASSIVE KILLING MACHINE: NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORES THE LIFE HISTORY,
REMARKABLE ABILITIES, AND ANCIENT RELATIVES OF *TYRANNOSAURUS REX***

OPENS FOR MEMBER PREVIEW DAYS ON MARCH 8, 2019, AND TO THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 11, 2019



It's the star of blockbuster movies and children's imaginations, the inspiration for viral memes and inflatable Halloween costumes. Yet despite its high profile in the public consciousness, our perception of *Tyrannosaurus rex* and its relatives is often much different than the reality. [**T. rex: *The Ultimate Predator***](#), a new exhibition opening at the American Museum of Natural History this spring, will explore the latest research and discoveries about the genus of dinosaurs known as tyrannosaurs, with an emphasis on the most famous and impressive member of the family – *T. rex*.

The full tyrannosaur story includes dozens of different species and spans over 100 million years of evolution, with *T. rex* appearing only at the very end of that period. Most tyrannosaurs were not giants like *T. rex*, which, fully grown, weighed between 6 and 9 tons. Early species were

small and fast, likely avoiding confrontations with larger dinosaurs. So how did mega-predators like *T. rex* evolve from such humble origins? How did *T. rex* grow so quickly in adolescence, ballooning from the size of a chicken to the size of a truck in just 21 years, gaining up to 4.6 pounds per day? And what kind of super sensory skills and traits did it use to become such an efficient killer? **T. rex: *The Ultimate Predator*** addresses these questions and more with life-sized reconstructions of tyrannosaurs at various life stages, real fossils and casts, large-scale video projections, hands-on interactives, and an exhilarating virtual reality experience that lets visitors work in a group to assemble a *T. rex* skeleton.

Visitors will encounter a massive life-sized model of a *T. rex* with patches of feathers – which, as scientists now know, were likely present on nearly all non-avian dinosaurs (all dinosaurs other than birds) – as well as reconstructions of a fluffy, helpless *T. rex* hatchling and a four-year-old juvenile *T. rex*; a “roar mixer” where visitors can imagine what *T. rex* might have sounded like by blending sounds from other animals; a shadow theater where a floor projection of an adult *T. rex* skeleton will come to life; and a magnetic wall where visitors will be tasked with placing various tyrannosaur family members in the correct time period. They will also encounter a life-sized animation of *T. rex* in the Cretaceous and explore real data from fossil specimens, CT scans, and microscope images at a tabletop Investigation Station.

In collaboration with HTC VIVE, the Museum will present *V. rex* (working title) as its first interactive, multi-player virtual reality experience. Visitors will team up to build a *T. rex* skeleton bone by bone and then watch as it comes to life in what is now Montana, as it was 66 million years ago.

T. rex and its relatives have a long history at the Museum. The first *T. rex* skeleton was discovered in 1902 by the Museum’s legendary fossil hunter, Barnum Brown, and the Museum boasts one of the few original specimens of *T. rex* on public display, in the Hall of Saurischian Dinosaurs. Mark Norell, who is curator of **T. rex: *The Ultimate Predator***, joined the Museum in 1989 and has led and participated in a number of scientific investigations into the biology and evolutionary history of tyrannosaurs and other theropods – the group of dinosaurs most closely related to modern birds – including the first discovery of a feathered tyrannosaur, *Dilong paradoxus*, in 2004. Many of the studies led by Norell, who is chair and Macaulay Curator in the Museum’s Division of Paleontology, and his colleagues and former students are reflected in the new exhibition. Gregory Erickson, professor of anatomy and vertebrate paleontology at Florida State University, is a consultant for the exhibition.

T. rex: *The Ultimate Predator* will be open to the public starting Monday, March 11, 2019. Members will be able to preview the exhibition starting on Friday, March 8, through Sunday, March 10.

Major funding for *T. rex: The Ultimate Predator* provided by the **Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund**.

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V. rex (working title) virtual reality experience in collaboration with HTC VIVE.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (AMNH.ORG)

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum encompasses 45 permanent exhibition halls, including those in the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, as well as galleries for temporary exhibitions. It is home to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, New York State's official memorial to its 33rd governor and the nation's 26th president, and a tribute to Roosevelt's enduring legacy of conservation. The Museum's five active research divisions and three cross-disciplinary centers support approximately 200 scientists, whose work draws on a world-class permanent collection of more than 34 million specimens and artifacts, as well as on specialized collections for frozen tissue and genomic and astrophysical data and on one of the largest natural history libraries in the world. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, it is the only American museum authorized to grant the Ph.D. degree and also to grant the Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Annual visitation has grown to approximately 5 million, and the Museum's exhibitions and Space Shows are seen by millions more in venues on six continents. The Museum's website, mobile apps, and massive open online courses (MOOCs) extend its scientific research and collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to additional audiences around the globe. Visit amnh.org for more information.

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