



LEGACY OF PREDATORS

For millions of years, apex predators have dominated the planet, influencing ecosystems from ancient landscapes to the modern oceans. Join **Anwesha Sinha, AGS Gurugram, XI (IBDP)** to explore fierce hunters sitting atop the food chain.



Smilodon

Era: Pleistocene epoch (2.6 million–11,700 years ago)

Appearance: The largest species of Saber tooth tigers, weighing up to 400kg.

Habitat: Grassland, North America, Europe.

Interesting traits: Strong limbs and canine teeth, measuring up to 14cm, they were able to open their mouth up to 130 degrees wide.

Art of hunting: Grabbed prey with powerful front legs and killed them with teeth, serrated along the front and back edges.

Diet: Large herbivores like bison and camels.

Postosuchus

Era: Triassic period (252–201 million years ago)

Appearance: A crocodile-like predator on long legs.

Habitat: Tropical regions, near Texas USA.

Interesting traits: Powerful legs and sharp teeth, making it fast and lethal. It had osteoderms (bony plates) embedded in its skin, providing protection against threats.

Art of hunting: Sharp, serrated teeth along with sharp claws were used for seizing food. An ambush predator, it relied on its stealth and surprise to capture prey.

Diet: Smaller reptiles and early dinosaurs.



Tyrannosaurus Rex

Era: Cretaceous period (145–66 million years ago)

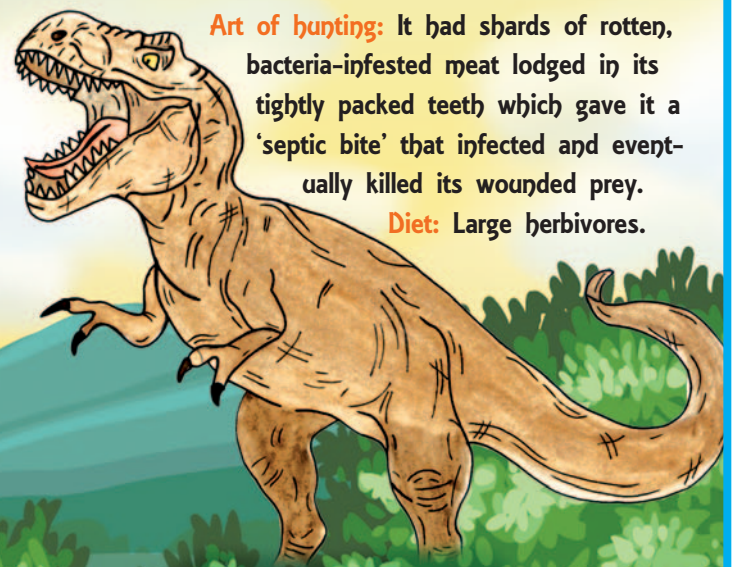
Appearance: Largest land predators, famous for its massive size and strength.

Habitat: Forest areas, near Montana USA.

Interesting traits: Strongest bites of any land animal and large teeth. They had great vision—able to see UV light along with excellent sense of smells.

Art of hunting: It had shards of rotten, bacteria-infested meat lodged in its tightly packed teeth which gave it a 'septic bite' that infected and eventually killed its wounded prey.

Diet: Large herbivores.



Anomalocaris

Era: Cambrian period (541–485 million years ago)

Appearance: Largest predators of its time, reaching up to 1 meter in length.

Habitat: Pacific Ocean.

Interesting traits: A circular mouth with hardened plates with a characteristic vision due to its large, stalked compound eyes.

Art of hunting: Unique spiked appendages to grab prey and a square, tooth-laden mouth delivered the final bite.

Diet: Fed on early marine life, including trilobites.



Dunkleosteus

Era: Devonian period (419–359 million years ago)

Appearance: A giant, heavily armoured fish up to 10 meters.

Habitat: Pacific Ocean near USA.

Interesting traits: Sharp jaws capable of slicing through bone and had an extremely powerful bite, able to generate forces over 8000 psi.

Art of hunting: A razor-sharp mouth plates and an interior muscle design created a unique suction effect that would bring its victims closer.

Diet: Other fish, including smaller sharks.

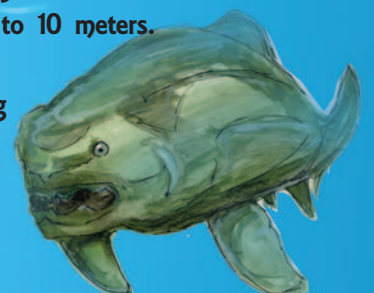


Illustration: Twisha Prakash, IX (IGCSE), Sanvi Chauhan & Ishita Jain, XI (IBDP), AGS Gur