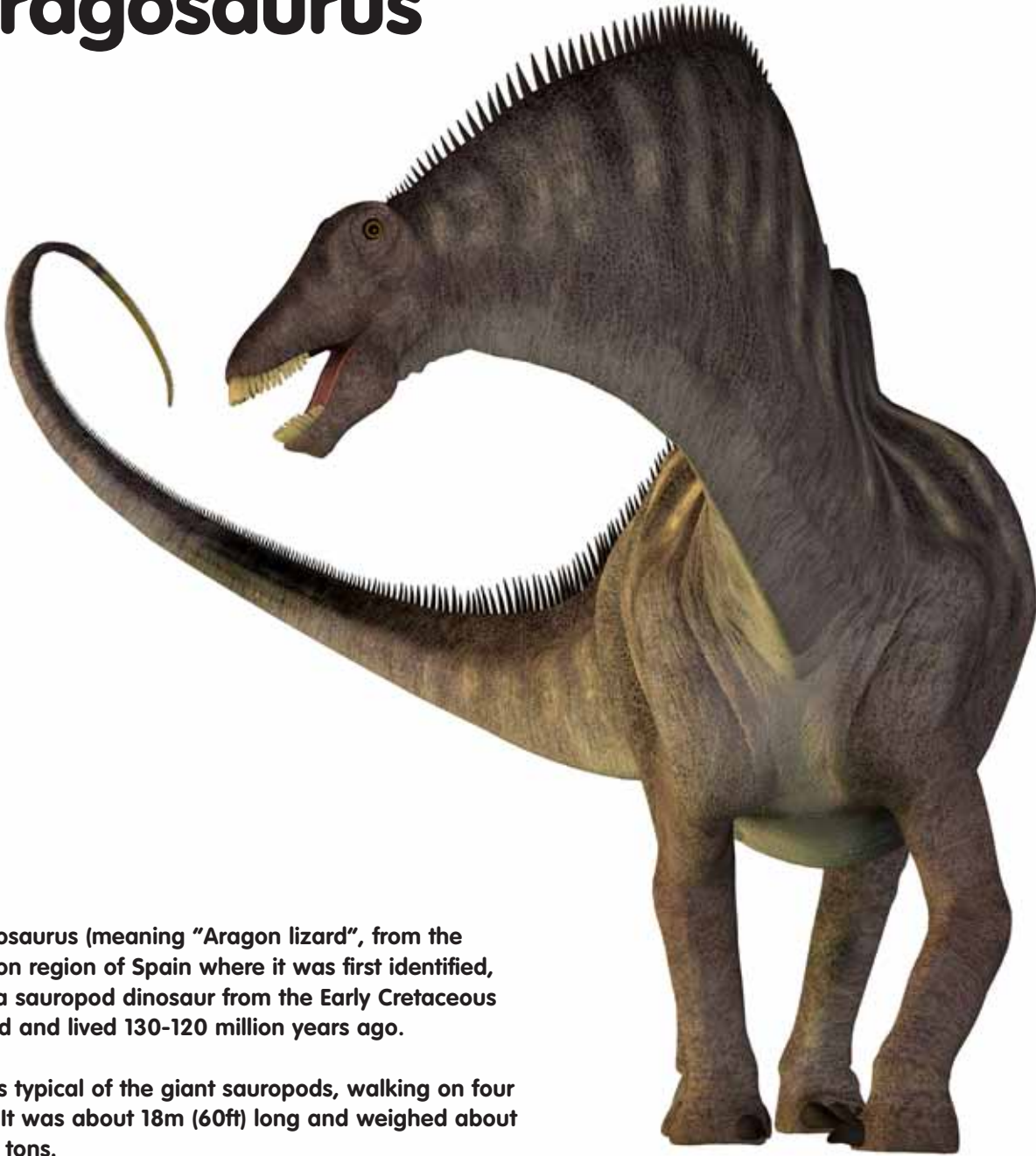


Aragosaurus



Aragosaurus (meaning “Aragon lizard”, from the Aragon region of Spain where it was first identified, was a sauropod dinosaur from the Early Cretaceous period and lived 130-120 million years ago.

It was typical of the giant sauropods, walking on four legs. It was about 18m (60ft) long and weighed about three tons.

Like other sauropods, it had a long neck, a long powerful tail, a small head and a bulky body. It had a probably had a short, compact skull and a moderately long neck. The teeth were large and wide, and would have been useful for slicing through the leaves and branches of tall conifer trees. The forelimbs were only a little shorter than the hind limbs, and the tail was long and muscular.

It is likely that Aragosaurus lived in family groups, or herds. It did not tend its young, simply laying eggs and leaving them to survive on their own.

The grinding of sauropod teeth would have worn them away quickly, so Aragosaurus regrew a new set of teeth every couple of months. Most other sauropods did not have such good teeth and had to swallow stones to help break up their food in their stomachs. But as Aragosaurus did not have to do this, the chances are it ate different kinds of tree from other sauropods, and could therefore live alongside other kinds of sauropod without competing for food.

Aragosaurus probably lived for between 20 and 30 years.