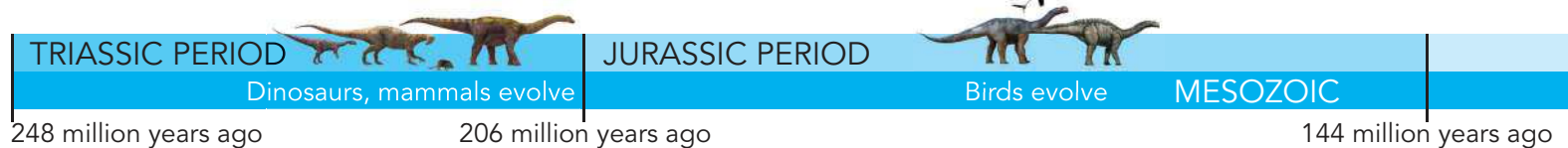


Introducing the Sauropods

The sauropods were the biggest animals ever to walk the Earth. They were a type of dinosaur that lived in a warm, wet climate, between 150 and 70 million years ago. Sauropods had huge bodies and very long necks. Their tails were even longer. Some were as long as a small airliner, and weighed as much as seven elephants.



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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-40576-8 — The Rise of the Sauropods White Band
Jon Hughes
Excerpt
[More Information](#)



CRETACEOUS PERIOD

Dinosaurs become extinct

65 million years ago

CENOZOIC

People evolve

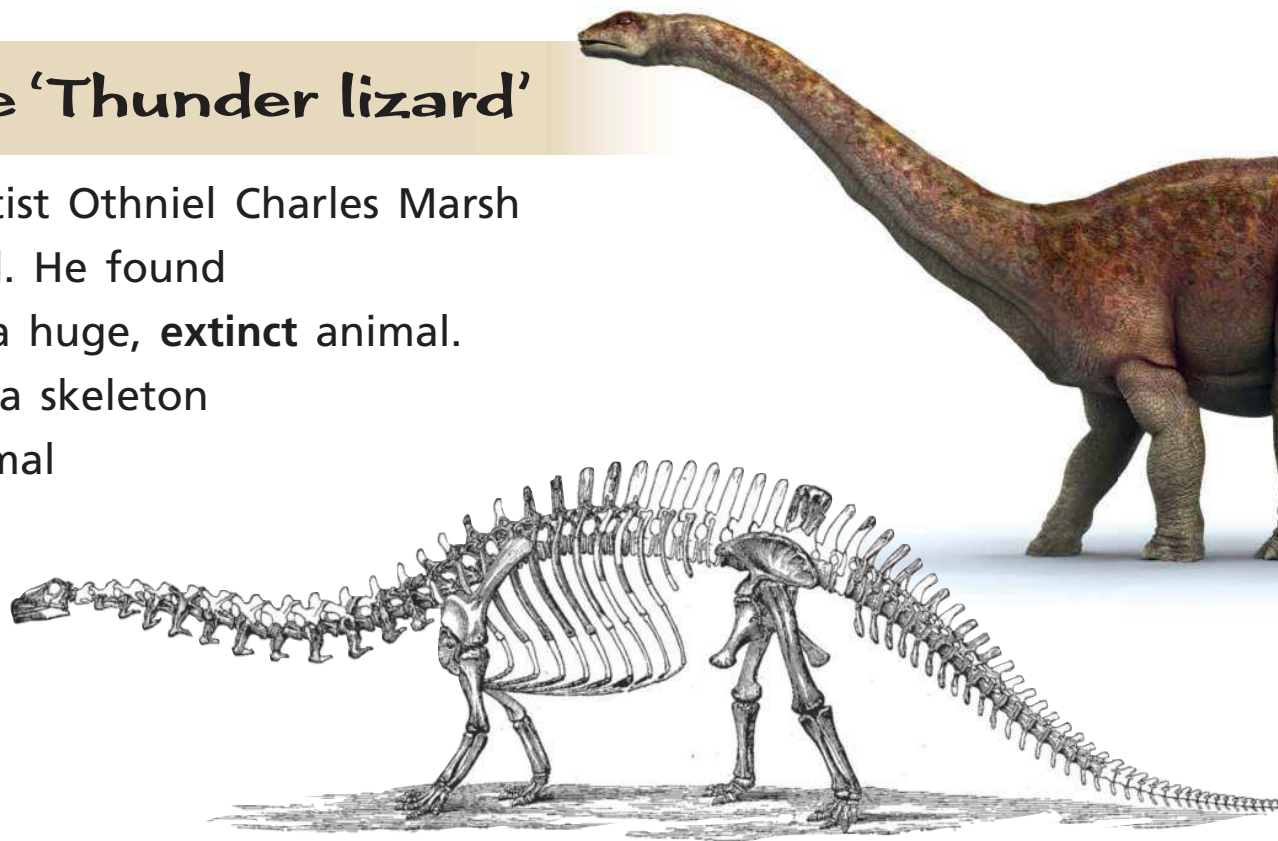
Now

3

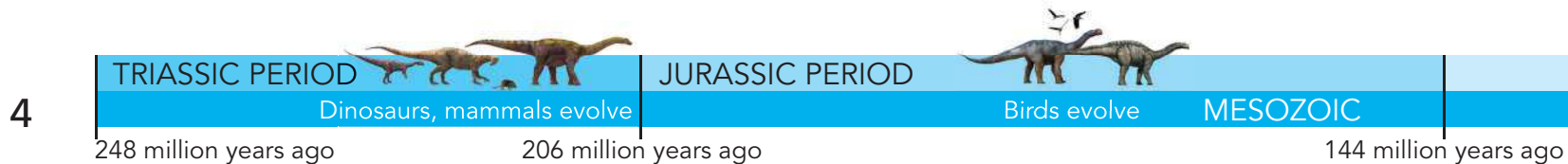
Discovering the ‘Thunder lizard’

In 1879, American scientist Othniel Charles Marsh discovered the sauropod. He found the **fossilised** bones of a huge, **extinct** animal. He arranged these into a skeleton and found that the animal had a large body. It had four strong legs, a long neck and a tail. However, its head was small.

Marsh realized that this animal would have been very big and very heavy. It would have made the ground shake as it walked. So, he named it ‘Brontosaurus’ (bron-tuh-sawr-us). This means ‘Thunder Lizard’ in Greek.



This picture of a brontosaurus skeleton was drawn in 1896.





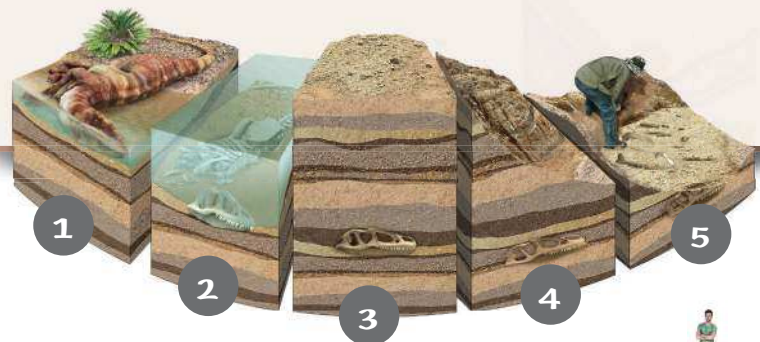
Fact File Lizard Feet

Many people still call all long-necked dinosaurs “brontosaurus”, but the correct name for this type of animal is a sauropod (sawr-oh-pod), meaning “lizard-footed”.

HOW DO SCIENTISTS KNOW?

FOSSILS

- 1) An animal dies.
- 2) The skeleton is covered in sand and mud.
- 3) As time passes, more layers of sand and mud form and cover the skeleton.
- 4) Over millions of years, the fossils are formed.
- 5) Weather wears down the rocks and the fossils are revealed on the surface.



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Now

5