

Ankylosaurus

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Ankylosaurus

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Meet the Ankylosaurus.

Its name means
“fused lizard.”



Ankylosaurus was a large dinosaur. It was almost as long as a school bus and weighed more than an elephant.

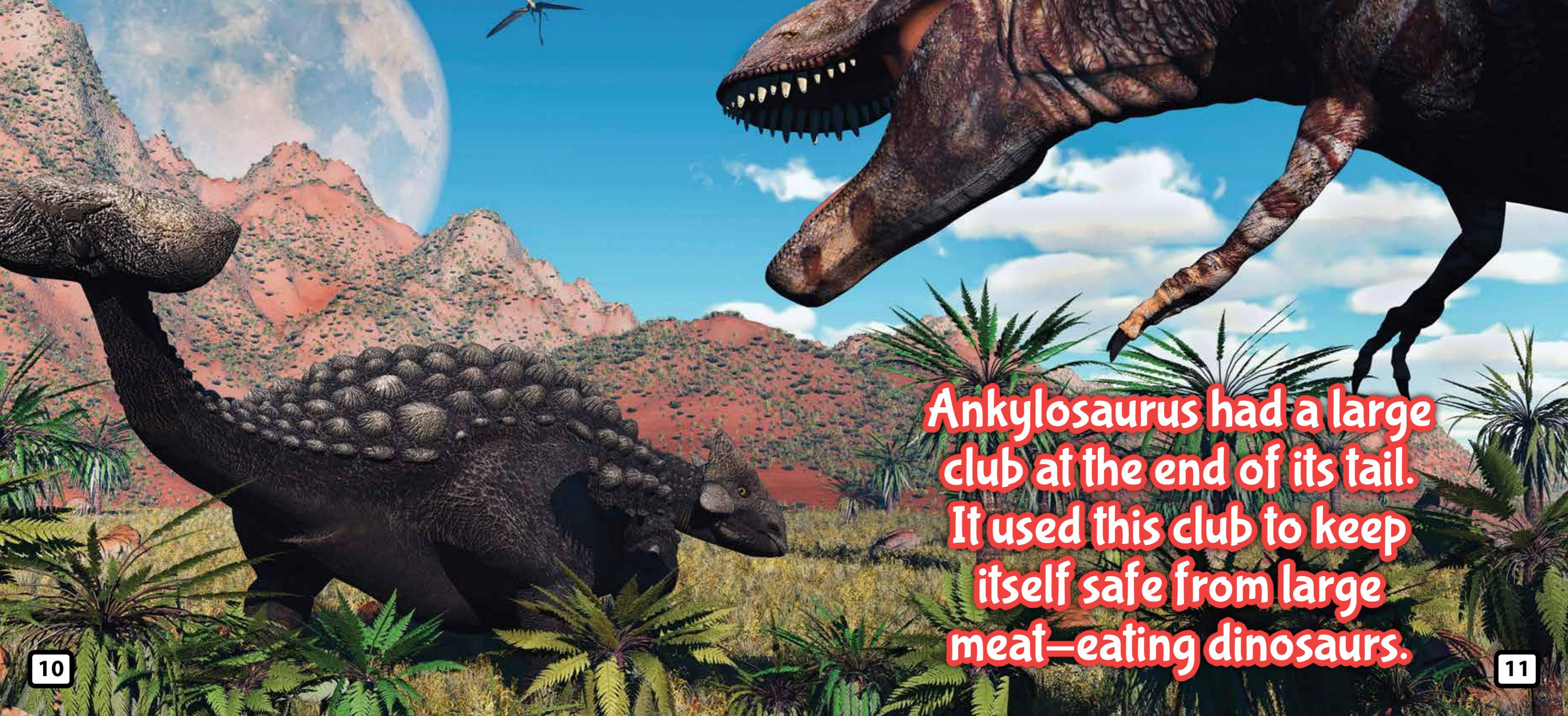


Ankylosaurus had a body covered in armor.

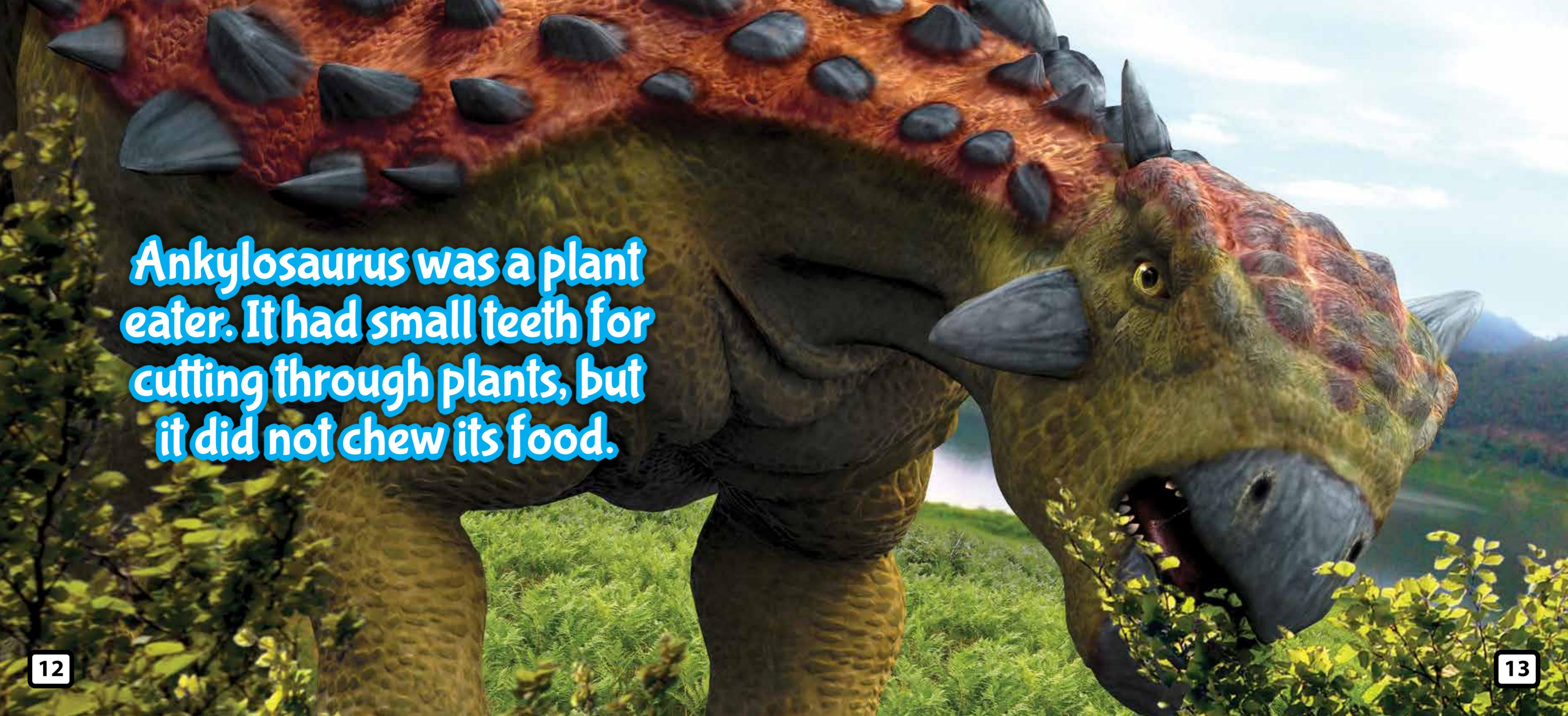
This armor was made up of bony plates and spikes.

Ankylosaurus had four bony spikes on its head.

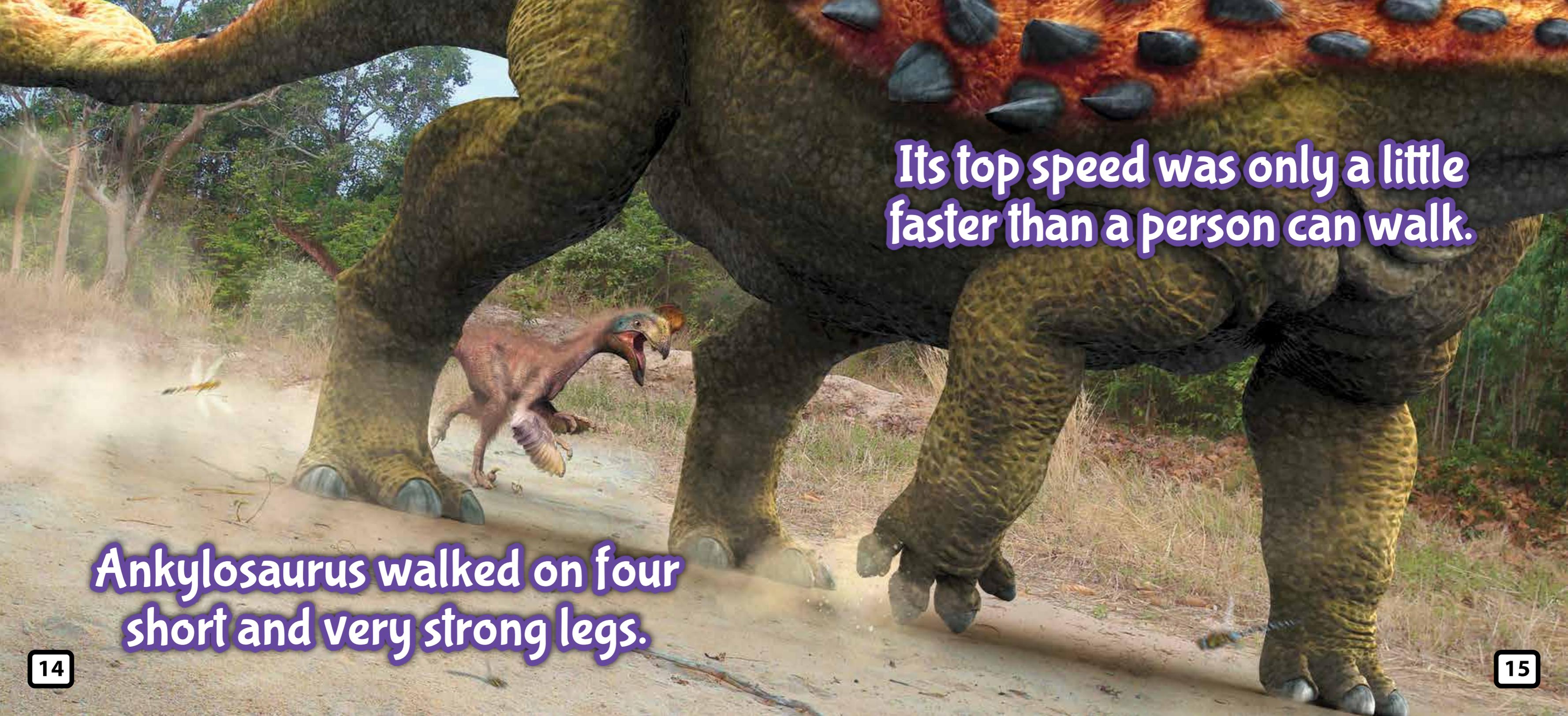




Ankylosaurus had a large club at the end of its tail. It used this club to keep itself safe from large meat-eating dinosaurs.

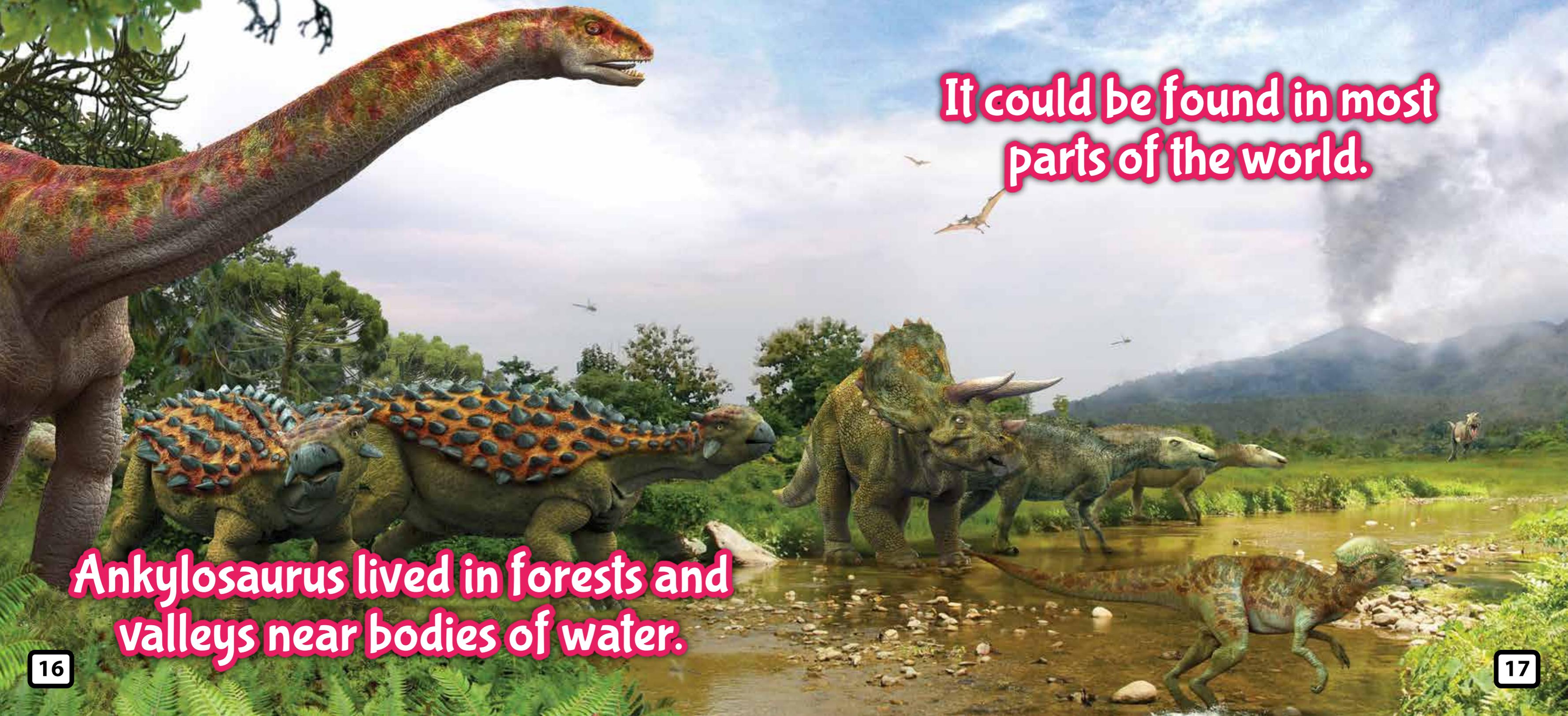
A close-up, side-profile view of an Ankylosaurus dinosaur's head and neck. The dinosaur has a large, reddish-brown frill with numerous dark, pointed osteoderms. Its skin is a mix of green and brown. The dinosaur is looking towards the right, with its mouth slightly open, showing small teeth. The background is a lush, green landscape with a river and mountains under a blue sky with light clouds.

Ankylosaurus was a plant eater. It had small teeth for cutting through plants, but it did not chew its food.

A large Ankylosaurus with a dark green, scaly body and a prominent red and black spiked tail is walking on a dirt path. A smaller, brown and blue dinosaur is running away from it. The background shows a savanna with trees and a clear sky.

Its top speed was only a little faster than a person can walk.

Ankylosaurus walked on four short and very strong legs.



It could be found in most parts of the world.

Ankylosaurus lived in forests and valleys near bodies of water.

**Ankylosaurus
lived about 65
million years ago.**



Ankylosaurus fossils
formed over millions
of years.



People can go to museums and dinosaur parks to learn more about the Ankylosaurus.



The American Museum of Natural History in New York is home to a famous Ankylosaurus fossil.

Ankylosaurus Facts

These pages provide detailed information that expands on the interesting facts found in the book. They are intended to be used by adults as a learning support to help young readers round out their knowledge of each amazing dinosaur or pterosaur featured in the *Mighty Dinosaurs* series.

Pages
4–5



Ankylosaurus means “fused lizard.” The dinosaur earned this name due to the fused bones in its skull and other parts of its body. Ankylosaurus is best known for its armor-covered body. Its fused bones and armored body have led many paleontologists to describe the Ankylosaurus as the tank of the dinosaur world. Ankylosaurus was the largest member of the ankylosaur family. Its full scientific name is *Ankylosaurus magniventris*.

Pages
6–7



Ankylosaurus was a large dinosaur. Although a full Ankylosaurus skeleton has not been recovered, scientists are able to estimate the dinosaur's size based on the bones that have been discovered. Ankylosaurus is believed to have been up to 35 feet (10.7 meters) long, 6 feet (1.8 m) wide, and 6.5 feet (2 m) tall. It may have weighed as much as 4 tons (3.6 metric tons).

Pages
8–9



Ankylosaurus had a body covered in armor. Like all ankylosaurs, Ankylosaurus was covered in bony plates. Called osteoderms, these plates acted like armor to protect the Ankylosaurus from predators such as *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Osteoderms were made up of bone covered in keratin. This is the same material found in human fingernails and rhinoceros horns. Different types of ankylosaurs had different kinds of osteoderms, which could be flat and bony or could grow into long spikes. Ankylosaurus also had four pyramid-shaped spikes on its head.

Pages
10–11



Ankylosaurus had a large club at the end of its tail. In addition to the osteoderms that covered its body, the Ankylosaurus also had osteoderms on the end of its tail. These osteoderms formed a large, hard club that the Ankylosaurus could use to defend itself. The club was formed from a series of osteoderms and vertebrae that fused together. Ankylosaurus's club was strong enough to break bone without being damaged itself.

Pages
12–13



Ankylosaurus was a plant eater. It had small teeth for cutting through plants. Unlike many other herbivores, such as the *Triceratops*, Ankylosaurus did not have banks of teeth to replace any that wore down. This means it would not have been able to grind up its food before swallowing. Ankylosaurus most likely digested its food in a separate fermentation compartment of its stomach, much like a cow does.

Pages
14–15



Ankylosaurus walked on four short and very strong legs. The Ankylosaurus's legs would have made it a relatively slow-moving dinosaur. Scientists estimate that its top speed was about 6 miles (10 kilometers) per hour. However, these short legs helped Ankylosaurus in a couple of ways. Its short legs and low-set skull made it easier for Ankylosaurus to eat low-lying vegetation, which was more tender and easier to chew. Having short legs also helped protect the soft underside of the Ankylosaurus's body from predators.

Pages
16–17



Ankylosaurus lived in forests and valleys near bodies of water. It lived in areas that had a great deal of plant life. Although no ankylosaur fossils have been found in Africa to date, scientists believe these dinosaurs lived on all continents. Ankylosaurus preferred tropical or near-tropical climates that were warm and humid. In North America, ankylosaurs mostly lived in what is now the western United States and Canada.

Pages
18–19



Ankylosaurus lived about 65 million years ago. It lived during the Middle Jurassic to Late Cretaceous Periods. Ankylosaurus was one of the last dinosaurs to go extinct. All that people know of Ankylosaurus comes from fossils, preserved ancient remains of ankylosaur bones. The most complete Ankylosaurus fossil was found in Alberta, Canada, by Barnum Brown in 1910. A complete Ankylosaurus fossil has not yet been found, so much of what people have learned about this dinosaur comes from studying other types of ankylosaurs.

Pages
20–21



People can go to museums and dinosaur parks to learn more about the Ankylosaurus. People all over the world go to museums to see fossils and recreations of dinosaurs such as Ankylosaurus. The American Museum of Natural History in New York is home to several dinosaur fossils, including the 1910 Barnum Brown Ankylosaurus fossil.

KEY WORDS

Research has shown that as much as 65 percent of all written material published in English is made up of 300 words. These 300 words cannot be taught using pictures or learned by sounding them out. They must be recognized by sight. This book contains 61 common sight words to help young readers improve their reading fluency and comprehension. This book also teaches young readers several important content words, such as proper nouns. These words are paired with pictures to aid in learning and improve understanding.

Page	Sight Words First Appearance	Page	Content Words First Appearance
4	its, means, name, the	4	Ankylosaurus, lizard
6	a, almost, an, and, as, it, large, long, more, school, than, was	6	bus, dinosaur, elephant
8	four, had, head, in, made, of, on, this, up	8	armor, body, plates, spikes
11	at, end, from, keep, to	11	club, tail
12	but, did, food, for, not, plant, small, through	12	plant eater, teeth
14	very, walked	14	legs
15	can, little, only	15	person, speed
16	near, water	16	forests, valleys
17	be, could, found, most, parts, world	19	fossils
18	about, years	20	American Museum of Natural History, New York
19	over	21	museums, parks
20	American, home, is, new		
21	go, learn, people		

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