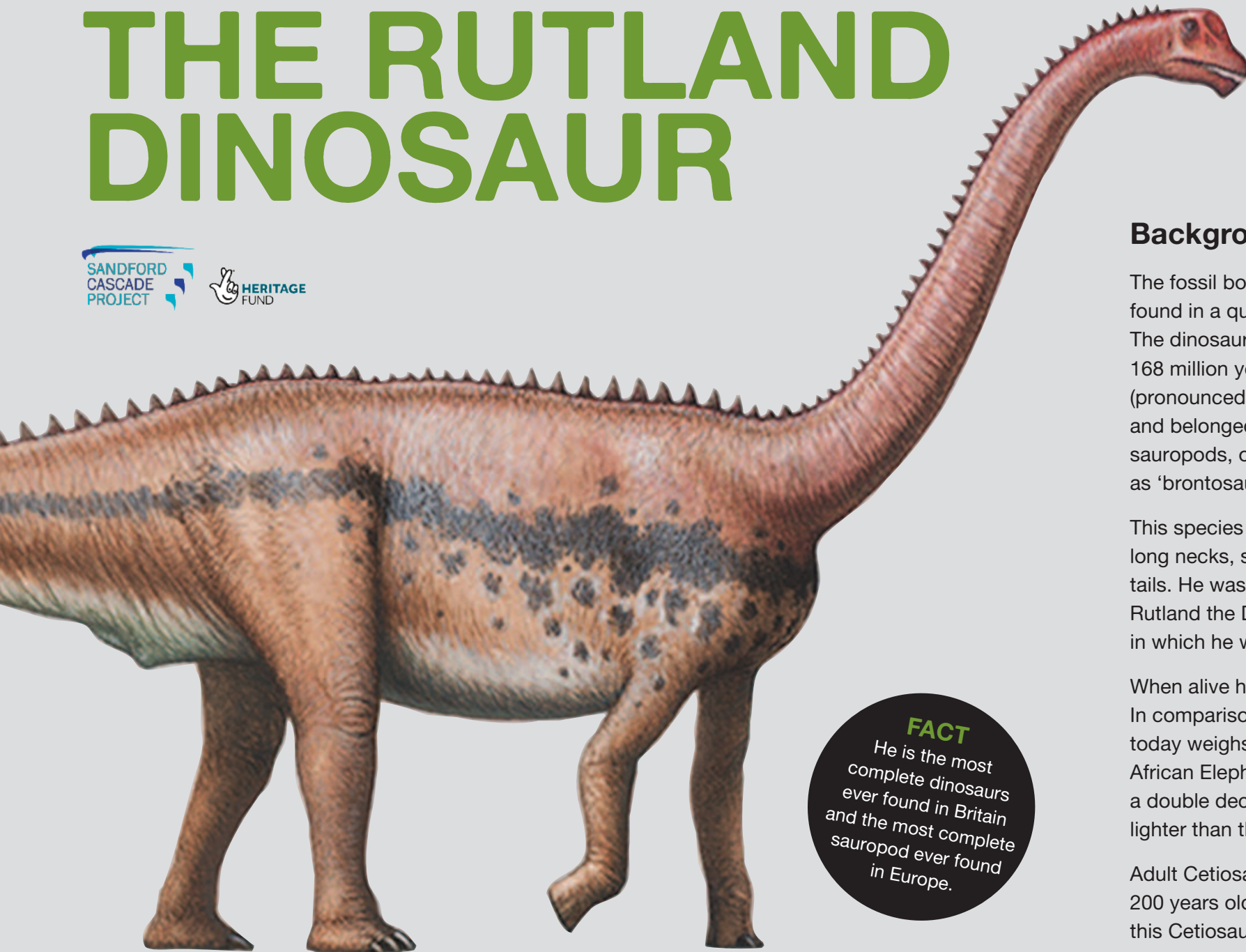


THE RUTLAND DINOSAUR

SANDFORD
CASCADE
PROJECT

HERITAGE
FUND



FACT
It is one
of the oldest
sauropod dinosaurs
found anywhere
in the world.

Background Information

The fossil bones of this dinosaur were found in a quarry near Rutland in 1968. The dinosaur had been buried for 168 million years. It is a Cetiosaurus (pronounced see-tee-oh -sore-rus) and belonged to a group called sauropods, or more commonly known as 'brontosaurus'.

This species have four strong legs, long necks, small heads and long tails. He was given his nick name of Rutland the Dinosaur from the county in which he was found.

When alive he would weigh nine tonnes. In comparison the largest land animal today weighs 4-7 tonnes and is the African Elephant, about the same as a double decker bus, but still much lighter than the dinosaur.

Adult Cetiosaurus's could live to 200 years old. It is believed that this Cetiosaurus was not fully grown.

FACT
He is the most
complete dinosaurs
ever found in Britain
and the most complete
sauropod ever found
in Europe.



OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

Just less than half (40%) of the skeleton is made up of the real fossils.

Can you see the real fossil bones on the skeleton?

Clue – the real fossils are lighter in colour.

Look at the diagram to help.

How many real fossils can you see?



Real fossil bones

Red: On display

Blue: Not on display



INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY

Do you think Rutland the Dinosaur is a plant eater or a meat-eater?

Discuss the dinosaur's characteristics which support your answers.

Then look around the gallery and find a dinosaur skeleton which has the opposite characteristics.

How would Rutland the Dinosaur move around?

Do you think he could run?

Or would he move in a slow walk?

Discuss the reasons behind your thoughts.

Act out how you think he would move.



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw the skeleton of the dinosaur, then draw over the top how you imagine him to look like with flesh and skin.

What colour do you think the dinosaur would be?

Would the skin have any texture to it?

Impressions of skin have been found in fossils.

Look for an example in the gallery.



LITERACY ACTIVITY

Write a story about the dinosaur.

It could be about his life with other sauropods and what the world was like 100 million years ago.

Or it could be about how the bones came to be found and the gravel pit and be reconstructed in the museum.