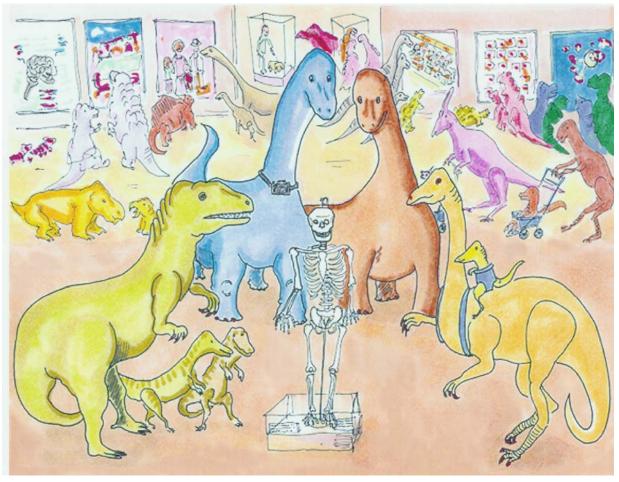
## When People Roamed the Earth



Dennis Baron



Did you ever wonder what it would be like if dinosaurs were alive now and people lived long ago?

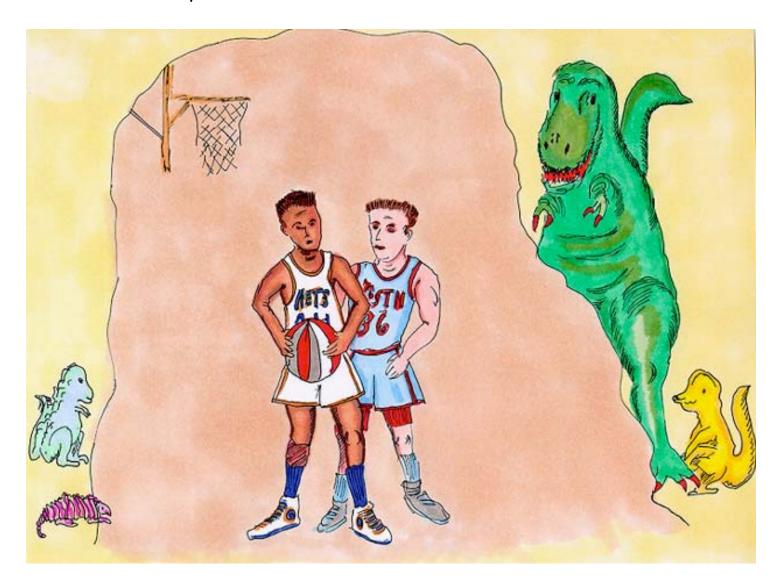


What if, 100 million years ago, people roamed the earth?



There was no ice cream. There were no video games. There were no dinosaurs.

People were smaller than most of the dinosaurs.

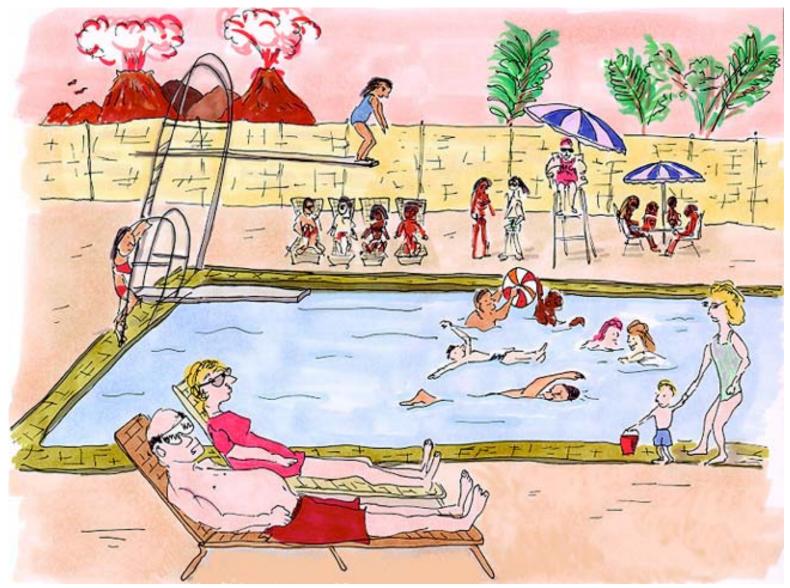




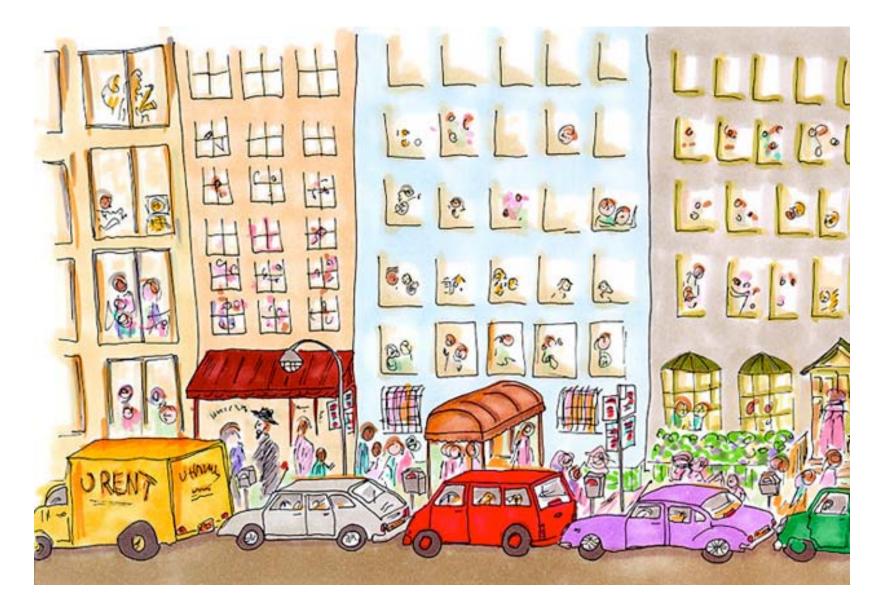
Some of them were a lot smaller.



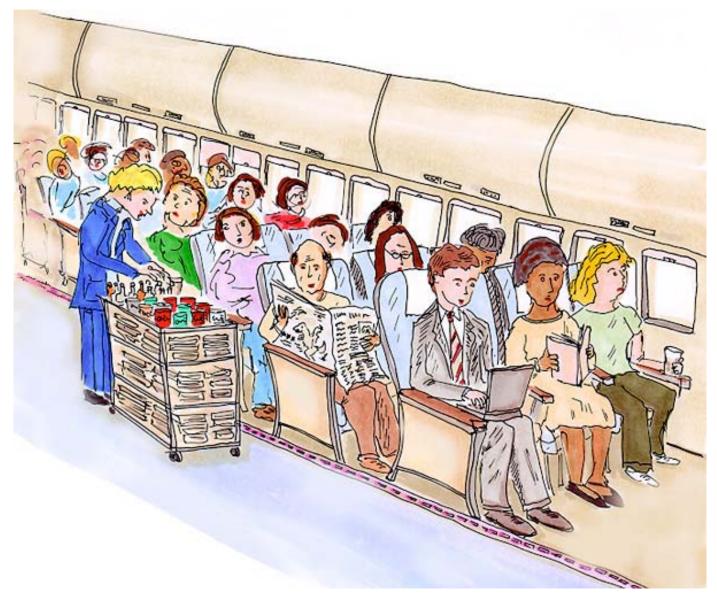
And some were so small that dinosaurs would have to wear glasses to see them.



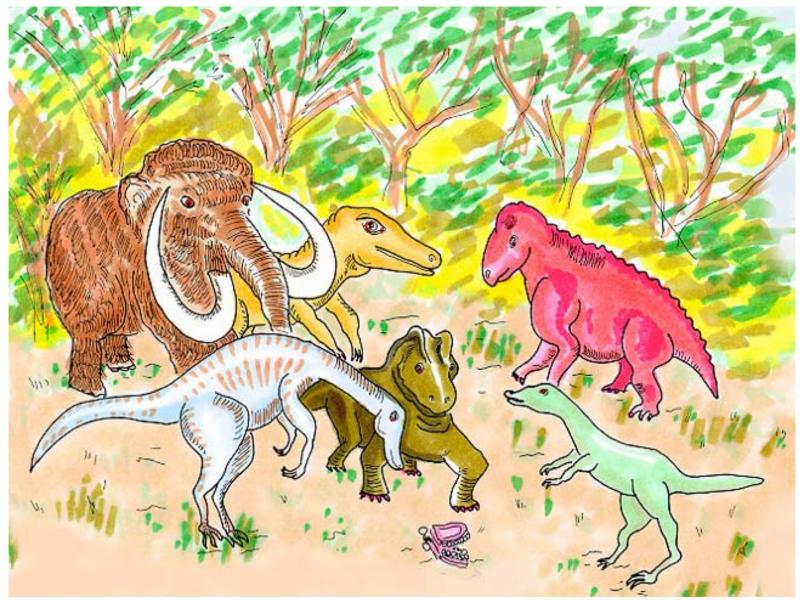
Some people lived in the water.



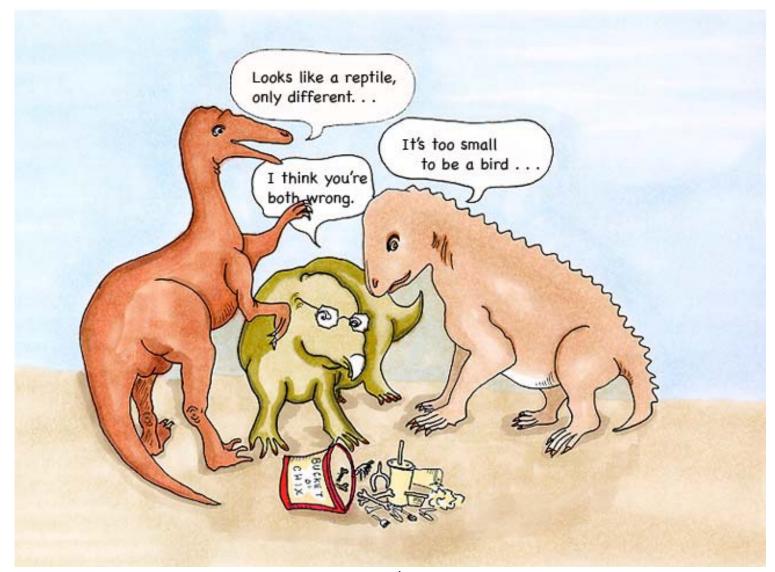
Others were land dwellers.



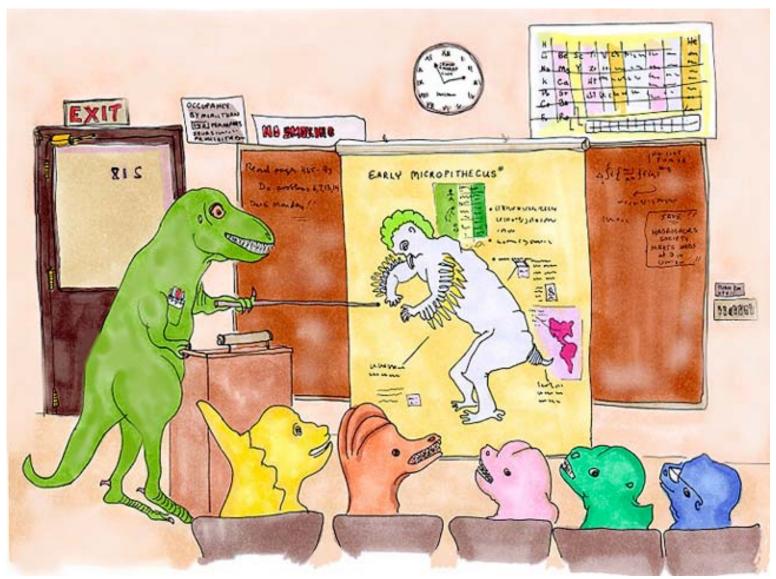
Some of them could even fly.



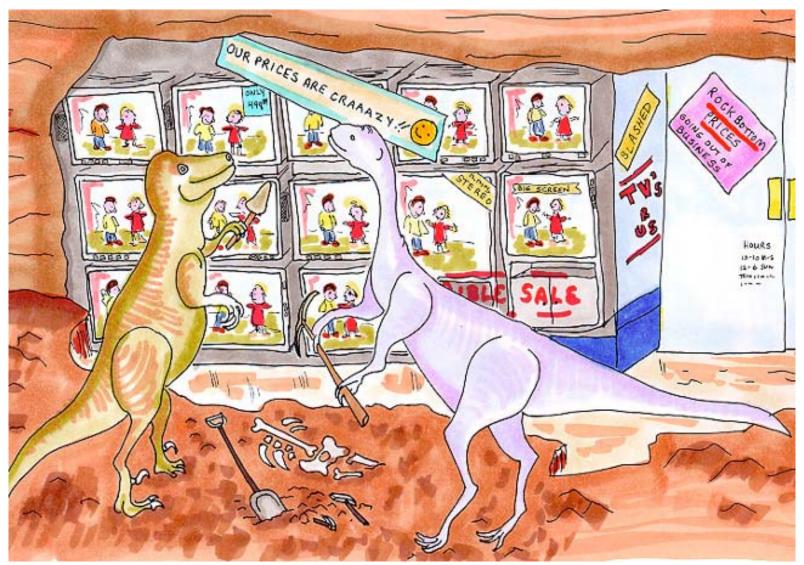
Dinosaurs first stumbled on evidence of humans over 100 years ago.



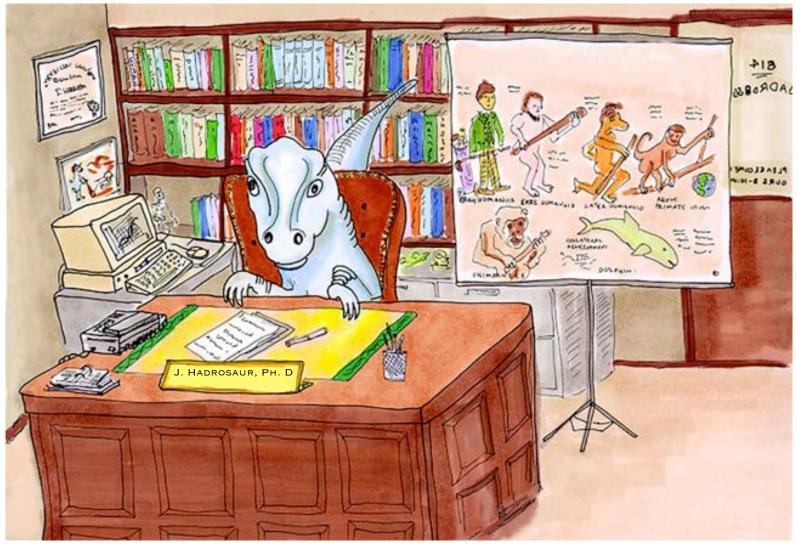
At first, dinosaurs didn't understand the importance of what they had found.



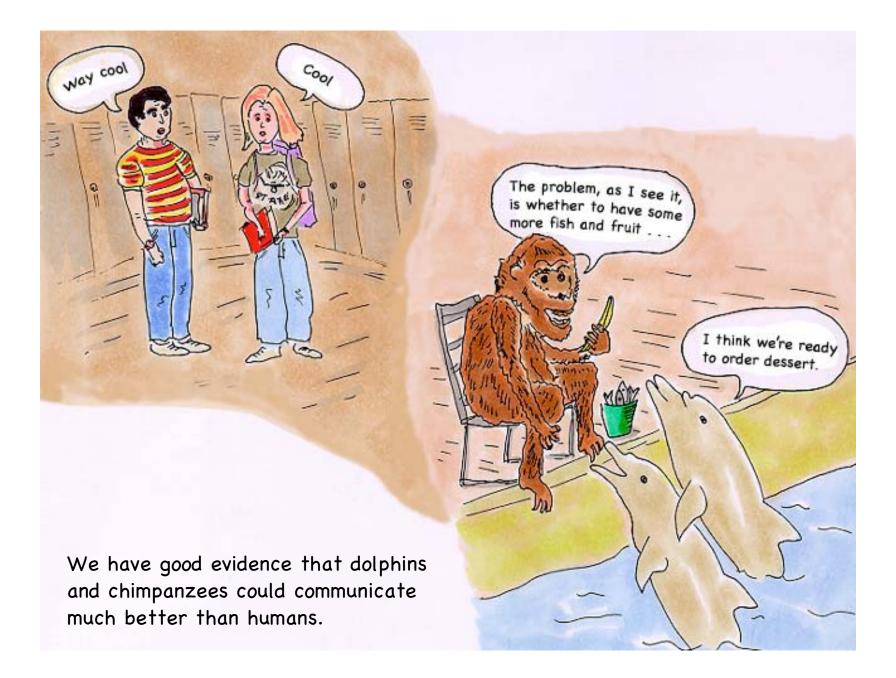
Early reconstructions of what humans looked like weren't very accurate.



Then paleontologists, digging at the site of an early mall, uncovered many small boxes with people in them.



From that discovery we learned that humans were a kind of mammal. But not all mammals were human. Dolphins and chimpanzees were mammals too.



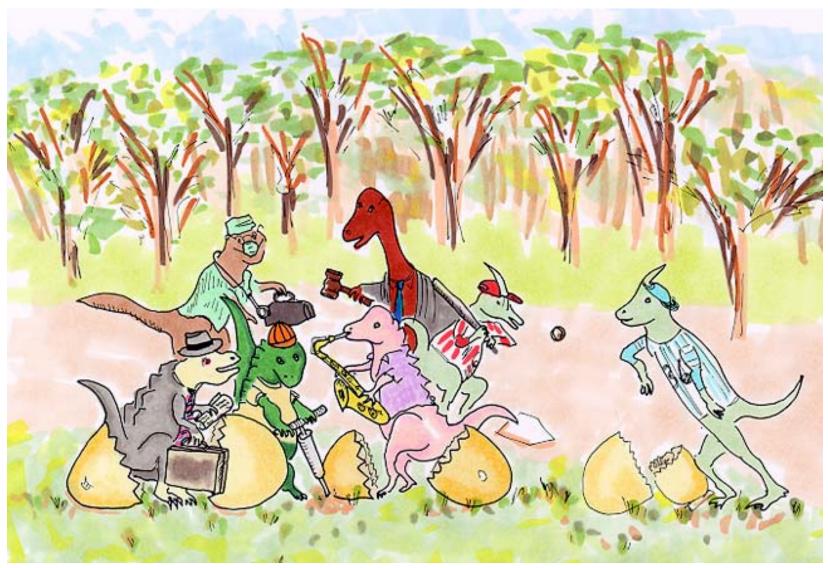
Unlike other mammals, humans were not well adapted to their environment.

Their brains were too big and bumped against their skulls.

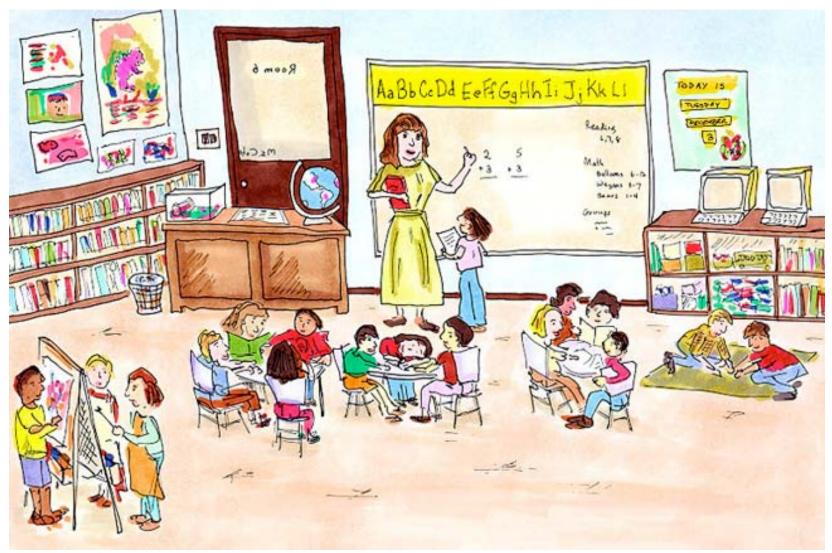
This made thinking difficult.

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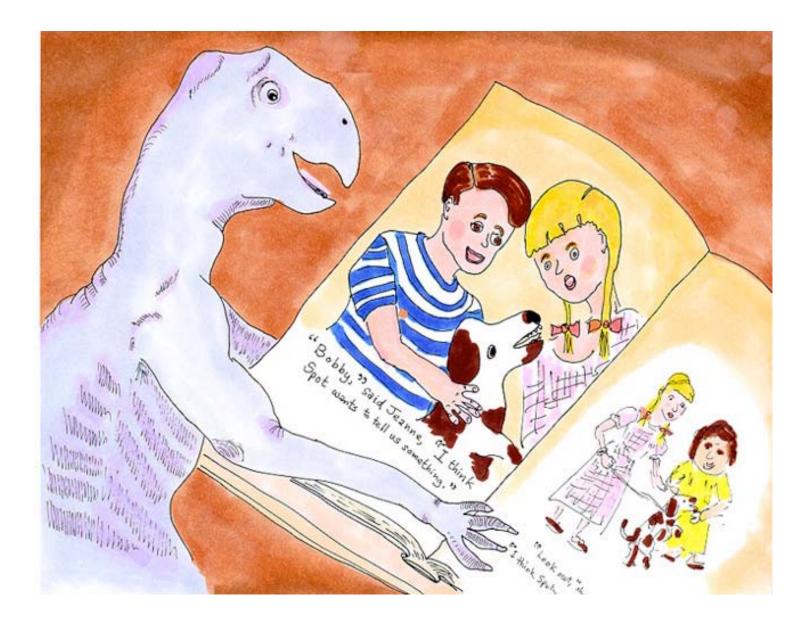


Humans were not as advanced as dinosaurs. Dinosaur babies just hatch and they're ready for anything.



Human babies lived together in big nests for many years before they could go out into the world.

Humans had strange names like Bobby or Jeanne. Why couldn't they just have simple names, like Brachycephalosaurus or Compsognathus?

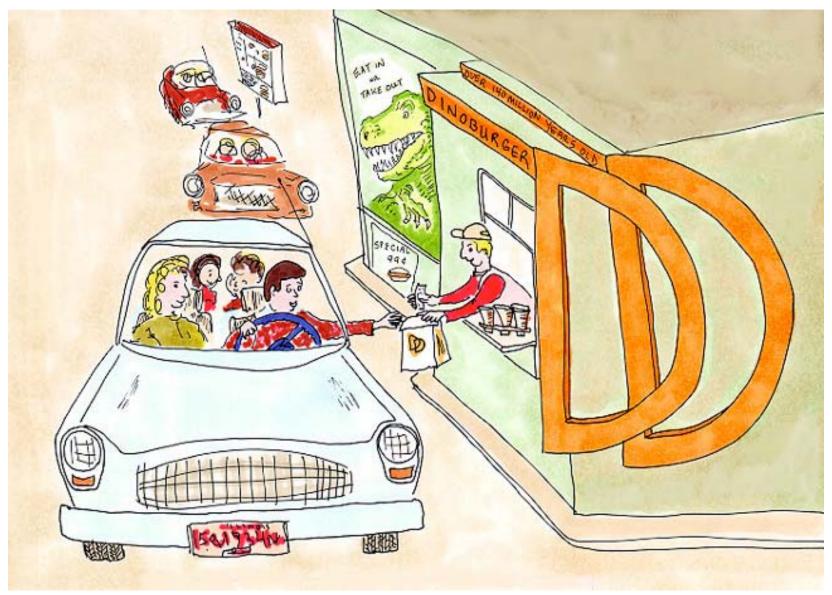




Like dinosaurs, some humans ate meat.

Others were herbivorous.





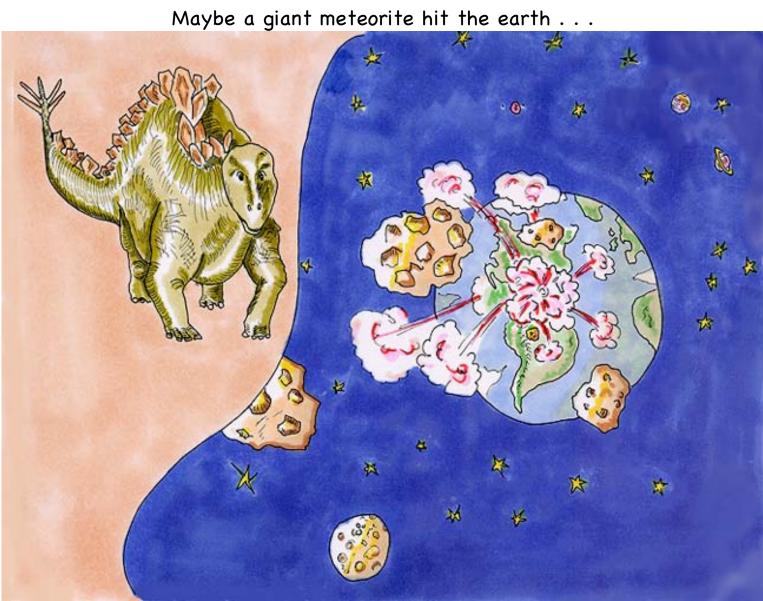
Sometimes, little dinosaurs worry that people might eat them.



But dinosaurs and people never lived at the same time. So no person ever ate a dinosaur. And no dinosaur ever ate a person.

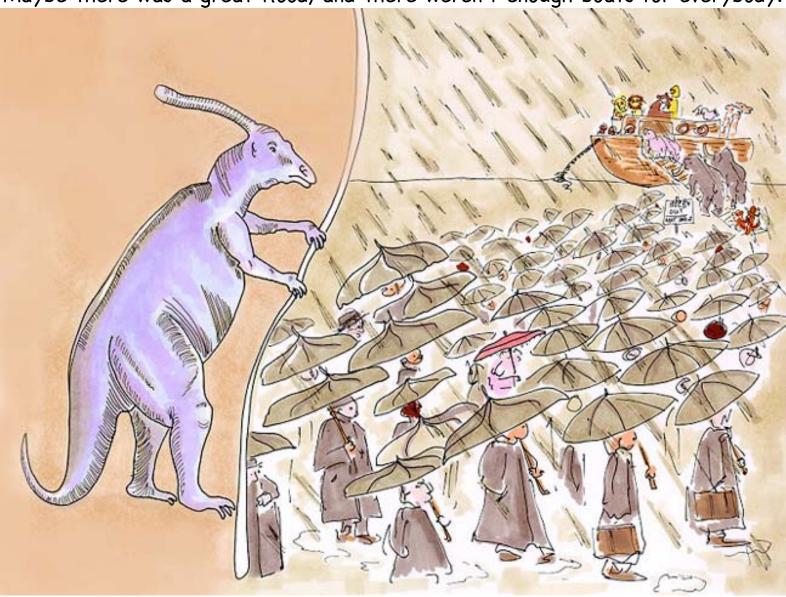


About 40 million years ago, all the people suddenly disappeared.

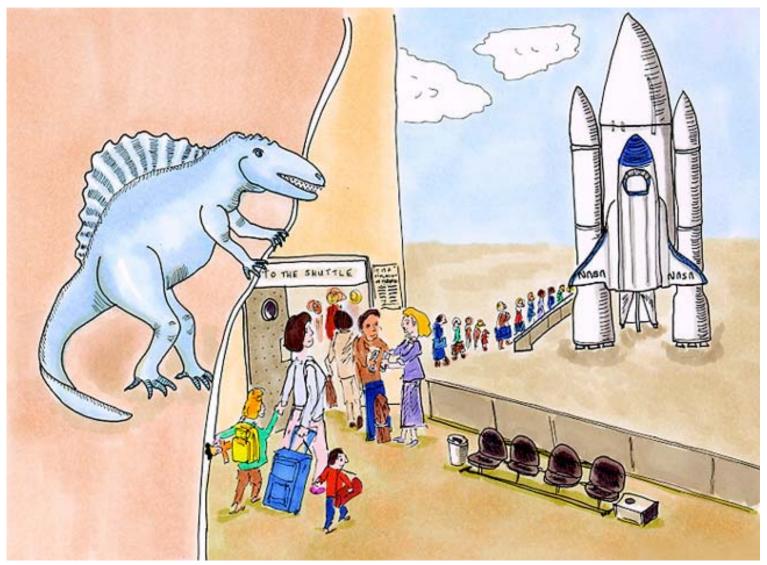




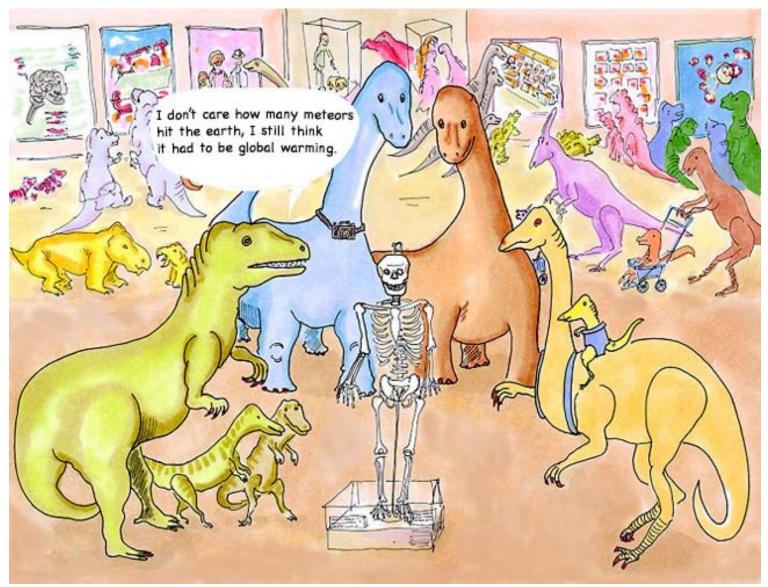
... and the sun got very cold, too cold for the people.



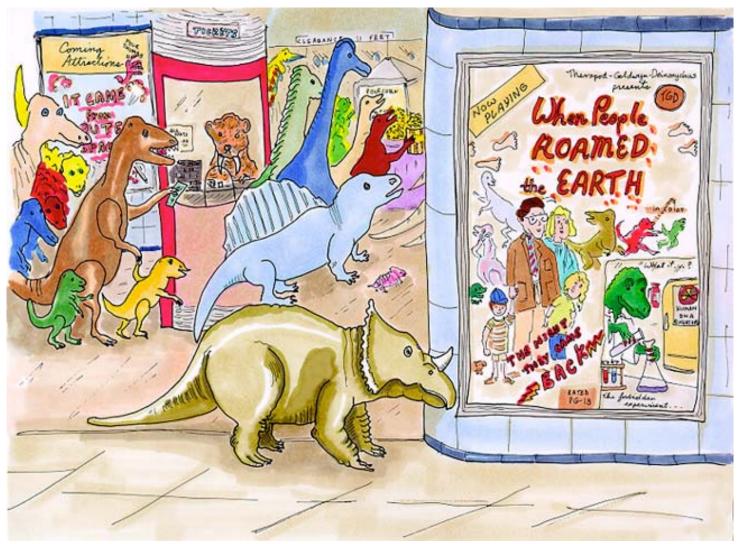
Maybe there was a great flood, and there weren't enough boats for everybody.



Or maybe the humans took a wrong turn on the way to Disney World and were never seen again.



Dinosaurs aren't really sure what happened to the humans.



But don't worry. They won't be back.