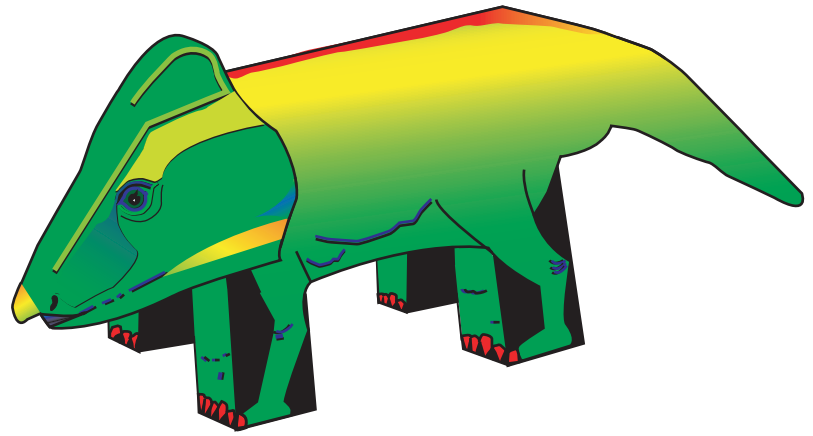


Serendipaceratops



(sair-en-dip-a-sair-a-tops)

The full name of this dinosaur is *Serendipaceratops arthurclarkei*. It is named for Arthur C. Clarke, author of books such as '2001 – A Space Odyssey' and 'Rendezvous with Rama'. Did you know that Clarke first became interested in science as a child because he was interested in dinosaurs?

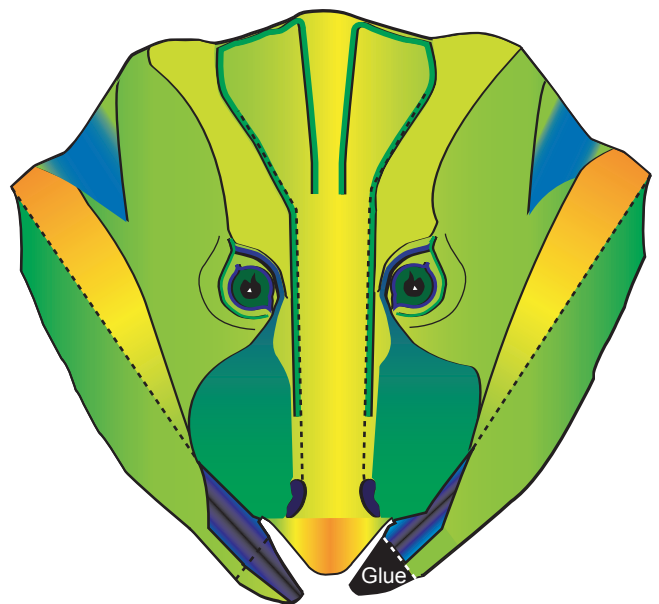
Ceratopsian (sair-a-top-see-an) dinosaurs first appeared in the Early Cretaceous, the period of time immediately after the Jurassic. Many ceratopsian dinosaurs had horns and all had beak-like jaws. A very well-known example was *Triceratops*, a North American dinosaur with three horns on its head and a large, bony neck frill.

Serendipaceratops was one of the earliest known ceratopsian dinosaurs. It was actually a protoceratopsian – *proto* means *first* or *original*. The first known bone from *Serendipaceratops* was discovered in Australia near Kilcunda, on Victoria's south-east coast. It is a forearm bone (ulna) about 115 million years old. This fossil could be an important clue that ceratopsian dinosaurs evolved in, or near, Australia and not Asia as previously thought. Another ceratopsian arm bone was also found at Dinosaur Cove, in south-west Victoria. It is a little younger at 106 million years old.

As an early ceratopsian dinosaur, *Serendipaceratops* probably had beak-like jaws, a very small neck frill and no horns. The beak-like jaw suggests it was a herbivore; a plant eater. This dinosaur was only about 2 metres long.

1. Cut around the outside of the head and body (but don't cut off the black sections).
2. Fold along all dotted lines.
3. Overlap and glue tabs, where indicated.

note: For better stability, put a small blob of modelling clay inside the back legs.



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Adapted from USGS Open File Report 97-422-A by Alpha, Galloway and Starratt
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