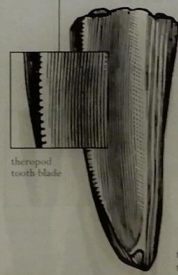
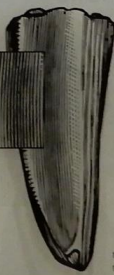




Except for fossilized stomach contents, teeth are our best clues to the diets of dinosaurs. The teeth of carnivorous animals, such as theropods, are sharp, serrated, daggerlike blades. These teeth help both to kill the prey and to slice the meat before swallowing.



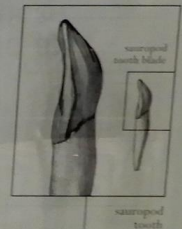
theropod tooth blade



theropod tooth

Teeth and Diet

The teeth of primitive plant-eating dinosaurs are leaf-shaped blades, used for cutting and shredding vegetation.



sauroripid tooth blade

sauroripid tooth

lower jaw (cast)

Tyrannosaurus rex
 (111) F&M 10 1941-1942

"Terror Herd"

Large dinosaurs were probably active predators. It was not only the cartoon-like serrated teeth that added them to their predatory habits. In addition, the lower jaw had a great muscle through its length that may have helped absorb some of the shock generated by crushing prey.

