

FOSSIL  
HUNTERS

# The MAIASAURA NESTS

Jack Horner's Dinosaur Eggs



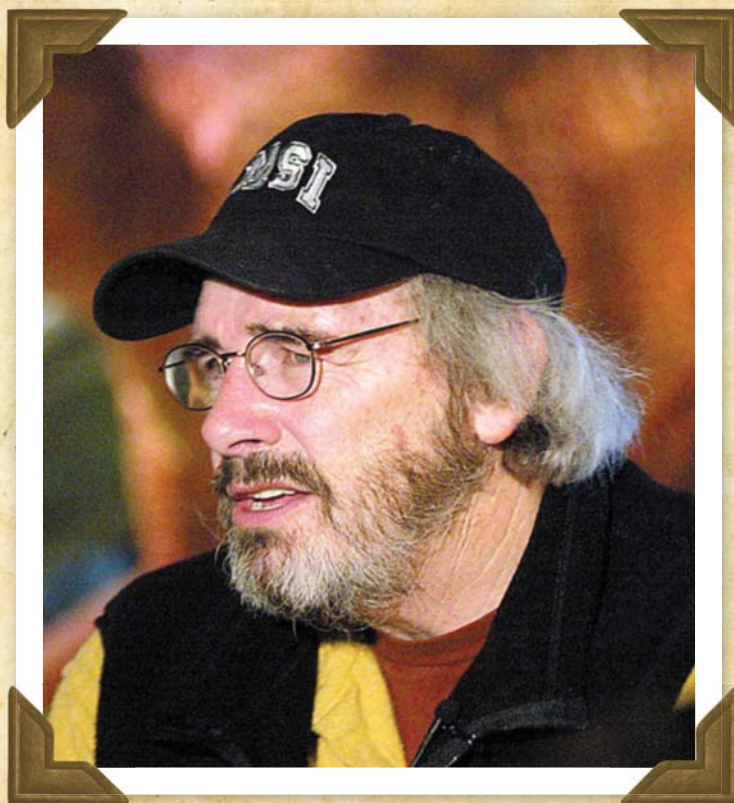
by Duncan Searl

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**Jack Horner's Dinosaur Eggs**



**by Duncan Searl**

Consultant: Jack Horner  
Curator of Paleontology  
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Bozeman, Montana

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# Table of Contents

A Rock Shop Surprise. . . . .	4
The Salad Bowl. . . . .	6
Growing Up Among Fossils . . . . .	8
A Rocky Road . . . . .	10
More Discoveries. . . . .	12
Looking at All the Clues. . . . .	14
Good Mother Lizards . . . . .	16
Cold-blooded or Warm? . . . . .	18
A Giant Bone Bed . . . . .	20
Living in Herds. . . . .	22
Life in the Herd . . . . .	24
The Museum of the Rockies . . . . .	26
A Trip Back in Time:	
Who Lived with <i>Maiasaura</i> ? . . . .	28
Glossary . . . . .	30
Bibliography . . . . .	31
Read More . . . . .	31
Learn More Online. . . . .	31
Index . . . . .	32
About the Author . . . . .	32

## A Rock Shop Surprise

Jack Horner wandered through a tiny Montana rock shop. It was cluttered with dusty rocks and **fossils** for sale.

The owner, Marion Brandvold, knew that Jack was a fossil hunter. He was an expert at identifying dinosaur bones. She showed him some fossils she had found.



Jack Horner

Jack stared at one of the gray bones. He couldn't believe his eyes. The owner had the jawbone of a baby duck-billed dinosaur.

At that time, in 1978, hardly any fossils of dinosaur babies had been found. So scientists knew next to nothing about the lives of young dinosaurs. Jack had to find out where Marion's fossils had come from.



A duck-billed dinosaur was a large plant-eating dinosaur with a duck-like beak. Many types of duckbills once lived in North America.

**Duck-billed dinosaurs**

# The Salad Bowl

Jack drove with Marion to a nearby cattle ranch. She showed him the **mound of mudstone** where she'd found the bones. Some fossil bits were lying on top.

Jack dug into the mound. He found that the mudstone filled a large hole in the surrounding rock. The hole measured six feet (2 m) across and three feet (1 m) deep. To Jack, it looked like a giant stone salad bowl.



Jack searched for baby dinosaur fossils in this area in northwest Montana.

Over the next few days, Jack studied the mudstone from inside the bowl. He found that it held the bones of 15 baby dinosaurs.

News of the discovery spread quickly. Jack Horner had dug up a dinosaur nest!

### **The Fossils in the Nest**



About 70 million years ago, a dinosaur made a mound of dirt and then dug out the center as a nest for her eggs. Later, mud filled in the nest and turned into stone. The baby dinosaurs inside turned into fossils.

Jack dug out big chunks of mudstone from the dinosaur nest. He then used water from a hose to separate the fossils from the dirt and mudstone.

## Index

- Albertosaurus* 10, 28  
birds 14-15, 18-19, 29  
bison 22-23  
bone bed 20-21, 22, 24  
Brandvold, Marion 4-5, 6, 12  
cold-blooded 18  
college 10  
Cretaceous period 28  
*Daspletosaurus* 23  
duck-billed dinosaurs 5, 13, 17, 28  
dyslexia 9, 10  
eggs 7, 13, 16-17, 29  
*Euoplocephalus* 29  
flamingos 14  
"good mother lizard" 16-17, 27  
herds 22-23, 24-25, 29  
*Jurassic Park* 25  
Jurassic period 28  
Mongolia 13  
Montana 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 21, 23, 26-27  
Mount St. Helens 21  
mudstone 6-7  
Museum of the Rockies 26-27  
nests 7, 8, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
North America 5, 21  
*Ornithomimus* 29  
predators 23, 29  
preparators 10-11  
Princeton University 10  
reptiles 17, 18-19, 29  
tepees 13  
Triassic period 28  
volcanoes 21, 22  
warm-blooded 18-19

## About the Author

Duncan Searl is a writer and editor who lives in New York.  
He is the author of many books for young readers.

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# The **MAIASAURA NESTS**

**Jack Horner's Dinosaur Eggs**

Jack Horner couldn't believe what he saw. The owner of a tiny Montana rock shop was showing him a small fossil. It was the jawbone of a baby dinosaur. Hardly any fossils of baby dinosaurs had ever been found.

Jack had to find out where the fossil had come from. His search led him to whole nests of dinosaur babies and eggs. Yet finding the fossils was just the beginning. Jack's discoveries would soon change how people thought about the way dinosaurs lived.

**ENDORSED BY**

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**The *Albertosaurus* Mystery**  
Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands

**The *Oviraptor* Adventure**  
Mark Norell and the Egg Thief

**The Fossil Feud**  
Marsh and Cope's Bone Wars

**SuperCroc**  
Paul Sereno's Dinosaur Eater

**The *Maiasaura* Nests**  
Jack Horner's Dinosaur Eggs

**A *T. rex* Named Sue**  
Sue Hendrickson's Huge Discovery

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