

amazing facts

from The Manchester Museum





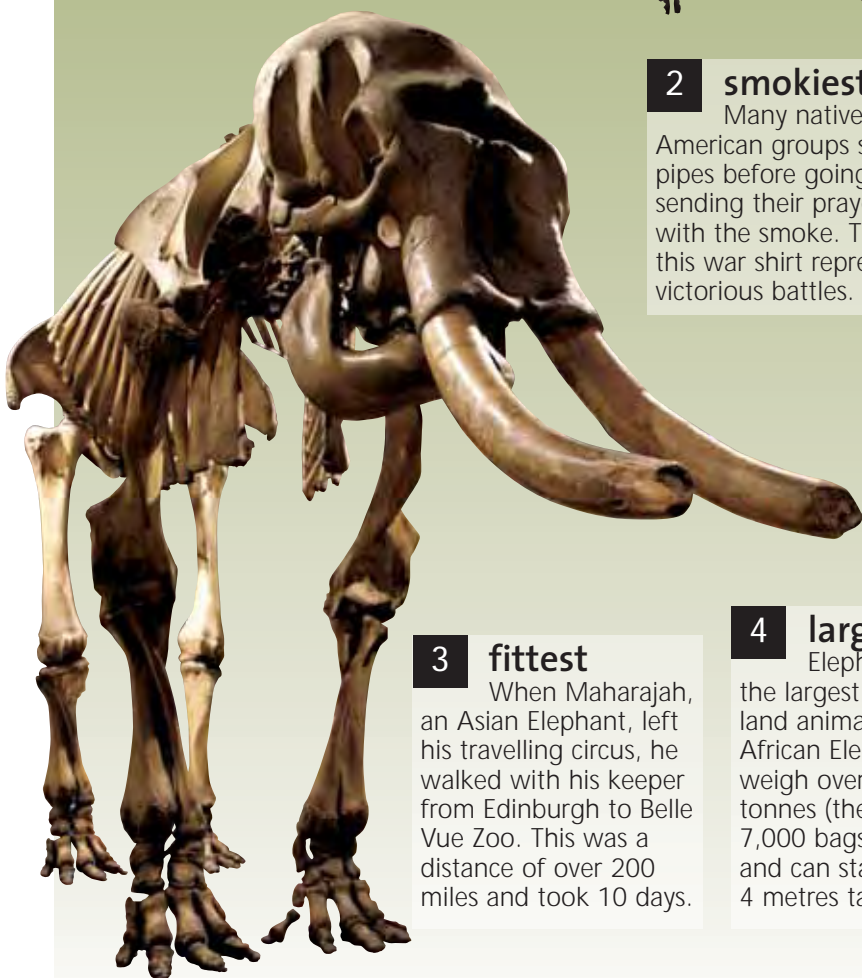
1 most twins

Nigeria holds the world record in numbers of multiple births in the world. The Yoruba people from that country have the highest amount of twins of any population.



2 smokiest

Many native North American groups smoked war pipes before going into battle, sending their prayers to heaven with the smoke. The pipes on this war shirt represent victorious battles.



3 fittest

When Maharajah, an Asian Elephant, left his travelling circus, he walked with his keeper from Edinburgh to Belle Vue Zoo. This was a distance of over 200 miles and took 10 days.

4 largest

Elephants are the largest living land animals. Male African Elephants can weigh over 6 metric tonnes (the same as 7,000 bags of sugar) and can stand up to 4 metres tall.

5 best aim

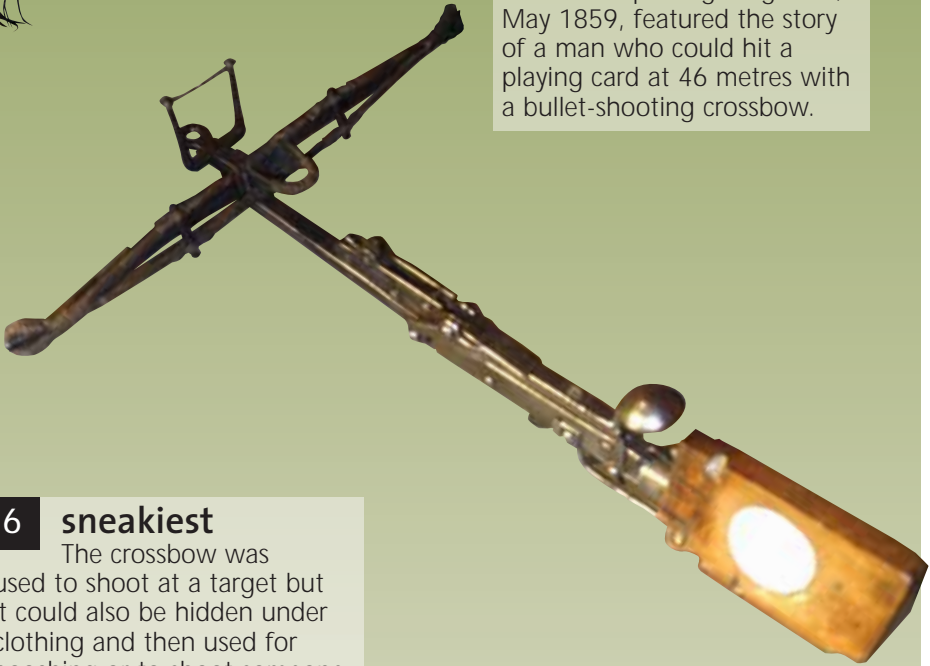
The Sporting Magazine, May 1859, featured the story of a man who could hit a playing card at 46 metres with a bullet-shooting crossbow.

6 sneakiest

The crossbow was used to shoot at a target but it could also be hidden under clothing and then used for poaching or to shoot someone.

7 most painful

During WW2 explosive arrows were used to increase injury. Fire, barbed and crescent headed arrows have also been used for the same reason.



8 heartiest

The ancient Egyptians wrapped their mummified dead in bandages, and stored their liver, lungs, intestines and stomach in four canopic jars. The heart was always left inside the body, but the brain was thrown away.

**9 featheriest**

Mummies were not all human. The ancient Egyptians mummified a wide range of animals, from fully grown bulls to fish. This is a mummified sacred ibis (a bird associated with the god Thoth).

**10 most dead**

Osiris (pronounced oh-sire-is), the god of the dead, was always shown as a bandaged mummy with his head unwrapped. He wears a crown that shows he was once king of Egypt, and carries a crook and flail (whip) in his crossed arms. He was one of over 500 Egyptian gods.





11 funniest

The god Bes, with his funny face, looked very fierce, but he cared for women in childbirth and young children and so was loved by the ancient Egyptians.



12 cattiest

This necklace has 26 tiny amulets of the cat goddess Bast. The ancient Egyptians loved cats and the word for cat in ancient hieroglyphs is mew. In the middle is the much larger lion-headed goddess of war, Sekhmet (pronounced sek-met).

13 heaviest

The Museum's heaviest object, just inside the Museum entrance, is a pink granite column from a temple in northern Egypt. King Ramesses II (pronounced ram-eh-sees) carved his picture and writings deep into the stone, so that no one would be able to rub them out.

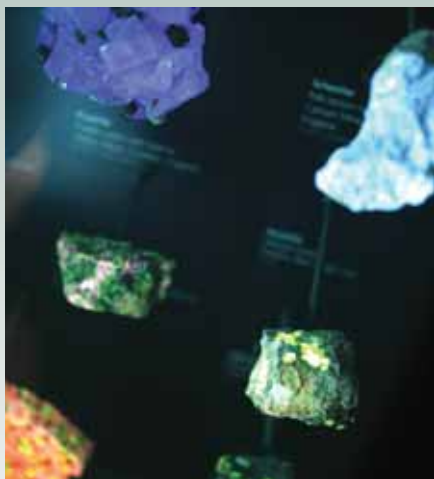


**14 oldest**

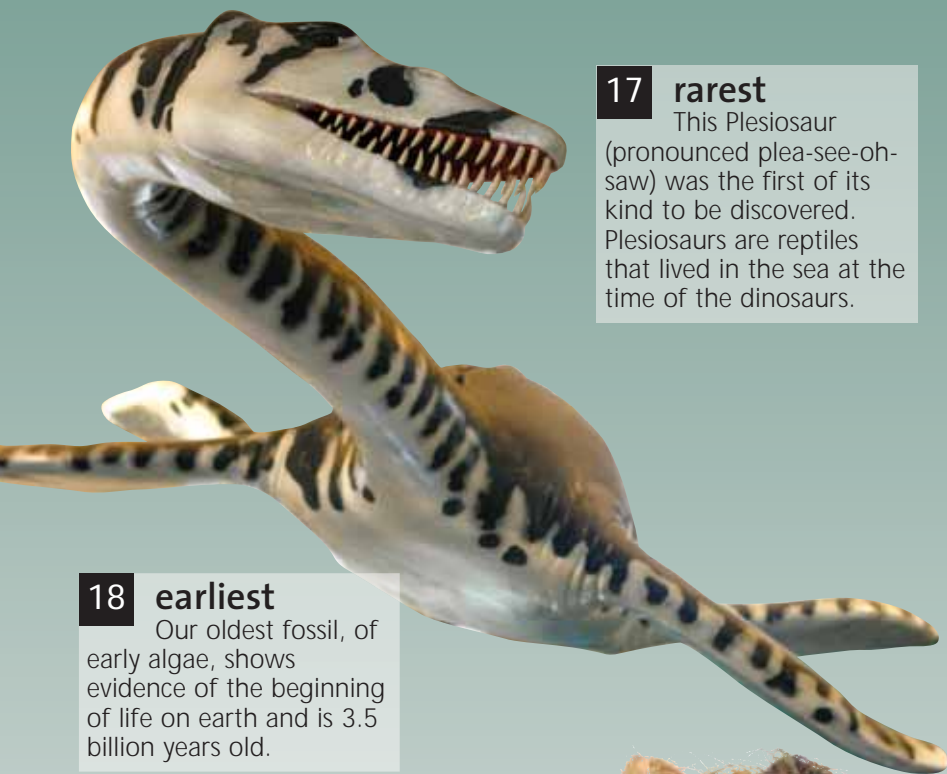
The meteorite collection contains the oldest objects in the Museum. They have been around for a little over 4.5 billion years and some are older than the planet itself.

15 weirdest

The weirdest object on the gallery is a boulder weathered by chance into the shape of a head.

**16 brightest**

The glow given off by fluorescent minerals is created by the ultra-violet (UV) light they absorb. The word fluorescence comes from the mineral fluorite which commonly glows in this way. Press the button near the floor to see our minerals glow.

**17 rarest**

This Plesiosaur (pronounced plea-see-oh-saw) was the first of its kind to be discovered. Plesiosaurs are reptiles that lived in the sea at the time of the dinosaurs.

18 earliest

Our oldest fossil, of early algae, shows evidence of the beginning of life on earth and is 3.5 billion years old.

**19 cosiest**

The Museum has real Mammoth hair from the last Ice Age (over 10,000 years ago). Mammoth hair could grow up to 1 metre long so that the animal kept nice and warm despite the very cold climate.

20 toothiest

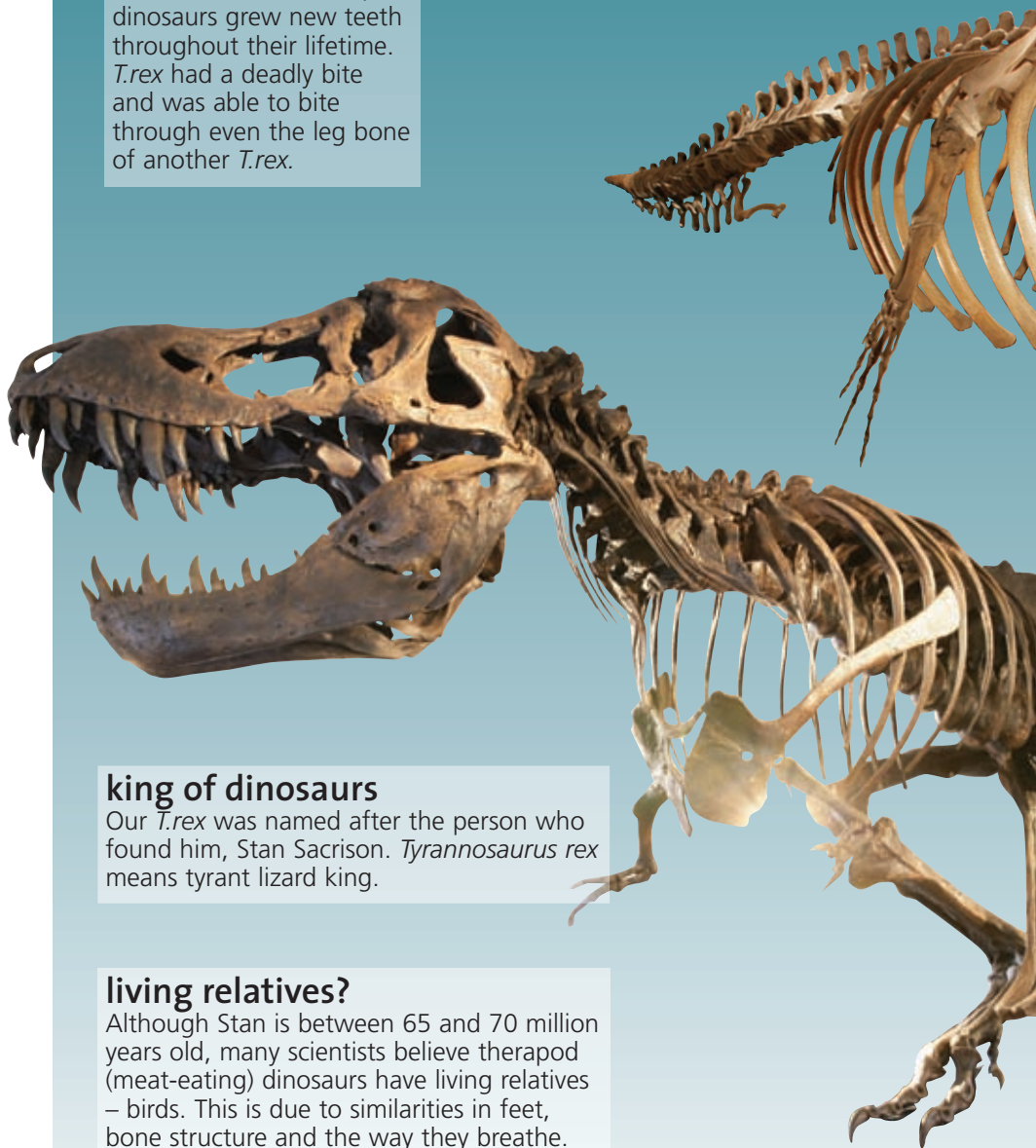
Unlike mammals, dinosaurs grew new teeth throughout their lifetime. *T.rex* had a deadly bite and was able to bite through even the leg bone of another *T.rex*.

king of dinosaurs

Our *T.rex* was named after the person who found him, Stan Sacrison. *Tyrannosaurus rex* means tyrant lizard king.

living relatives?

Although Stan is between 65 and 70 million years old, many scientists believe theropod (meat-eating) dinosaurs have living relatives – birds. This is due to similarities in feet, bone structure and the way they breathe.





21 **biggest**

The biggest animal on the gallery is a Sperm Whale skeleton but this is only a baby. They can grow up to 19 metres in length and weigh up to 50 tonnes.

brainiest

Sperm Whales have the largest brain of any animal, weighing up to 9kg.

deepest

Sperm Whales can dive to more than 2,200 metres. This is over a mile deep.



22 eggiest

Although most mammals give birth to live young, some mammals lay eggs. The Duck-billed Platypus (from Australia) and the Echidna (from New Guinea, pronounced e-kid -nah) lay very small eggs.

**23 smallest**

The Harvest Mouse is one of the smallest mammals in Britain. It weighs about the same as a 20 pence coin.



The Museum has many stuffed animals, made from the skin of a real animal stuffed with cotton, plaster and other materials, not to mention the spooky glass eyes. Most of the Museum's stuffed animals date back to 1860-1900, so it is not surprising that some of them show their age. Many of these animals would have been killed - not by, or for, the Museum, but as trophies and curiosities. The Museum is firmly committed to nature conservation and we hope that by displaying these animals visitors will gain an awareness of the natural world.

**24 horsiest**

The oldest horse in the world can be found in the Museum. His name was Old Billy and he died in 1822 near Manchester, aged 62.

**25 hairiest**

The horn of a Rhinoceros is made from compressed hair, not horn.

26 hungriest

The Polar Bear is the largest land carnivore (meat-eater) in the world. It can even kill an adult Walrus, which can weigh up to 1,500kg.



27 **strangest**

One of the strangest birds in the world is the Hoatzin from South America - it is vegetarian and has four stomachs. It smells awful and the young birds have claws in their wings.

**28** **beakiest**

The Sword-billed Hummingbird is the only bird to have a beak longer than the rest of its body. Hummingbirds are only found in Canada, the USA and in Central and South America.

29 **commonest**

The commonest British bird is the Wren with around 10 million breeding pairs in Britain and Ireland. One of the rarest birds is the Bittern, which is a kind of heron that lives in reedbeds. There are probably less than 20 breeding pairs of Bitterns in Britain.



30 widest

The bird with the biggest wingspan is the Wandering Albatross at nearly 4 metres. There was a vulture, now extinct, which had wings that were possibly twice as big, the size of a small plane.

**32 tallest**

The biggest living bird is the Ostrich, which weighs up to 130kg and stands almost 3 metres tall.

31 ex-commonest

The Passenger Pigeon was once the commonest bird in North America. It is now extinct.



**33 hugest**

The Atlas Moth is the World's largest moth, often mistaken for a small bird when it is flying. The adults have a wingspan of 30cm.

**34 most poisonous**

The Black Widow Spider is famous for its deadly poison. It is considered to be the most venomous spider.

**35 stickiest**

Stick Insects are the world's longest insects. Some of them reach an overall length of nearly 56cm.

**36 strongest**

For its size the Hercules Beetle is the strongest creature on earth and is capable of carrying up to 80 times its own body weight.

37 swarmiest

Locusts can form the largest swarms ever seen. These cover hundreds of square miles and consist of many millions of locusts.

**38 eldest**

The Cicada has the longest lifespan in the insect world - up to 17 years. They are only adults for a few weeks, spending the rest of their lives underground as juveniles.



**39 most endangered**

Frogs have been around since the time of the dinosaurs. Now, frogs and amphibians are amongst the world's most endangered species.

**40 slowest**

The Chameleon is one of the slowest moving reptiles but when he shoots his tongue out to feed, if you blink you would miss it.

**41 stillest**

The Green Tree Python is our stillest live animal. He is so secure that he hardly ever likes to move.



42 **fattest**

Tomato Frogs look like big fat tomatoes, and are one of the fattest amphibians ever.

43 **deadliest**

The poison from one Poison-dart Frog can kill 20,000 mice or 10 adult humans.



44 **wettest**

Most Bromeliad plants (in the Poison-dart Frog tank) live high up on tree branches and don't have roots that go in the ground. Their leaves hold water like a pool so make a good home for jungle frogs.



45 **fastest**

Some species of bamboo plant can grow up to 30cm a day.

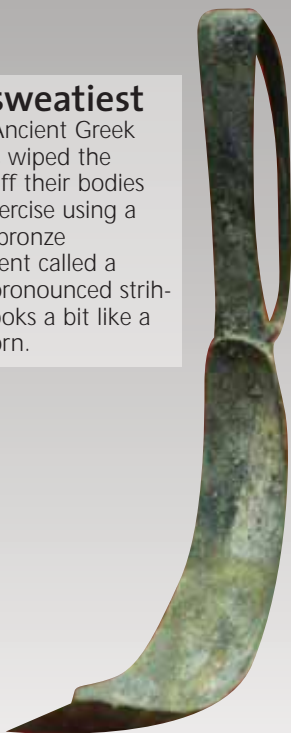
46 smelliest

Fish sauce was made from fish guts left to ferment in the hot sun. People put fish sauce on their meals rather like our ketchup.



47 sweatiest

Ancient Greek athletes wiped the sweat off their bodies after exercise using a curved bronze instrument called a strigil (pronounced strih-jill). It looks a bit like a shoe horn.

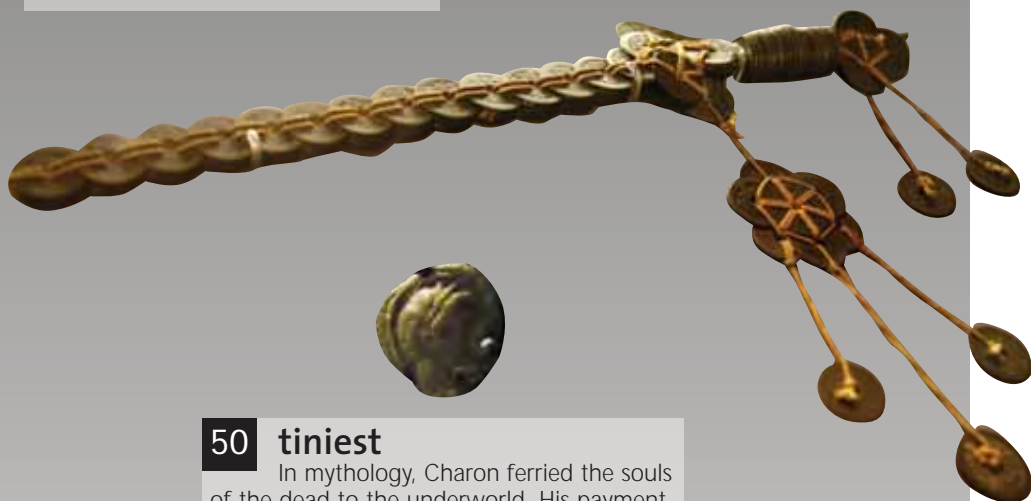


48 pottiest

People from Vounous (pronounced voo-noos) in Cyprus showed how important they were by putting lots of things in their tombs. The Museum has 56 pots from just one burial.

49 luckiest

19th century Chinese coin swords were made from coins tied together with lucky red string, and were meant to protect the owner from evil spirits and disease.

**50 tiniest**

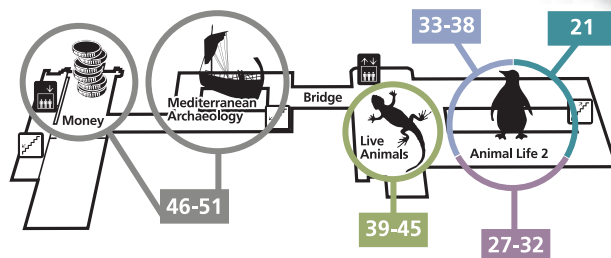
In mythology, Charon ferried the souls of the dead to the underworld. His payment was a small coin, Charon's obol, placed in the corpse's mouth before burial.

**51 most enormous**

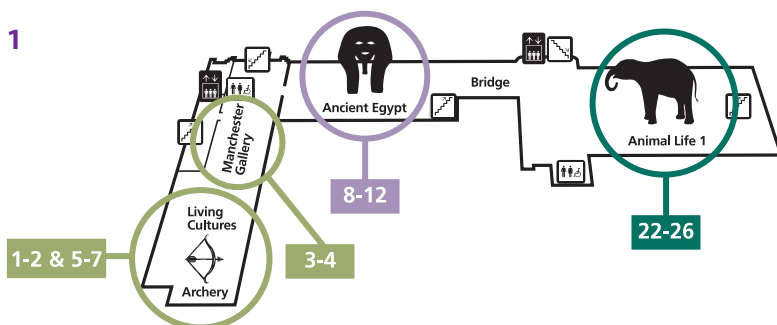
In the 17th and 18th centuries, a shortage of silver for coins led Sweden to issue enormous equivalent 'plates' of copper.

map

Floor 2



Floor 1



Floor M



Floor G

