

# What we learned from dinosaur teeth in North Africa

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I've just published a



Examining the fossilised teeth of dinosaur species like *Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus* can reveal clues about their diets and place on the food chain. Credit: YuRi Photolife/Shutterstock

As dinosaurs go, [Spinosaurus](#) is one of the most recognizable: a predator with sharp claws, a long jaw full of teeth, and a big sail on its back. It lived near rivers, hunting for fish, 100 million years ago in a place that's now desert; the [Kem Kem beds](#), a geological formation in North Africa.

Much like *Spinosaurus*, most of the [dinosaurs](#) that have been found fossilized in the area were supported by that riverine system. The remains of crocodile-like animals and fish are the most common fossil finds, especially in sediments from Morocco, Algeria and Egypt. The ecosystem supported a large community of predatory dinosaurs that ate meat or fish, as well as a minority of plant-eating ones.

*Spinosaurus* and his carnivorous relatives have gotten a lot of scientific attention, but the plant-eating part of the community has not been much in the spotlight.

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