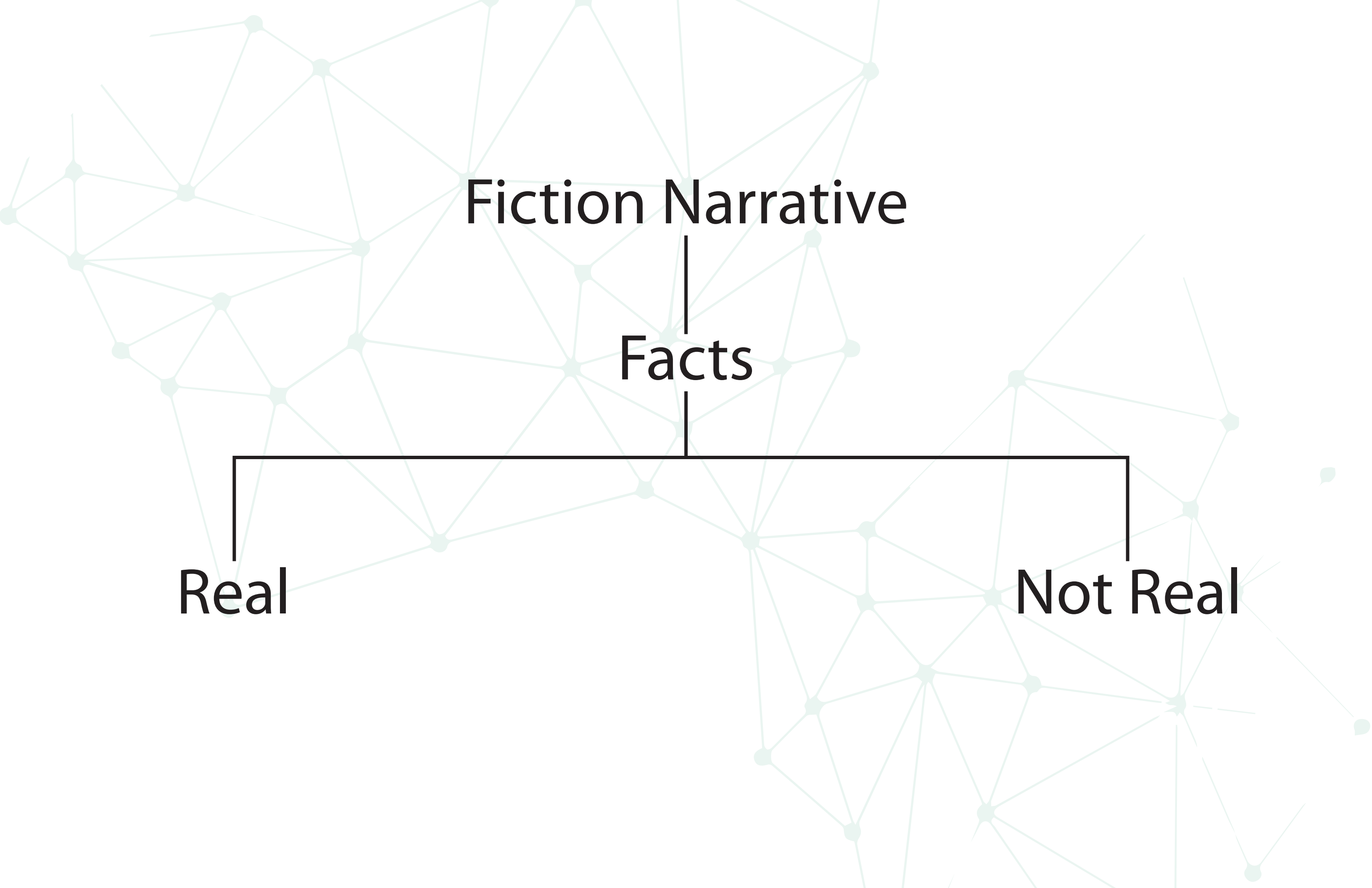




Real or Not Real: Does Scientific Accuracy Matter in Fiction?

Presenter: Andrew Dutt



Fiction Narrative

Facts

Real

Not Real

Science Fiction Scale of Hardness

A subjective scale that measures how a work reflects actual scientific knowledge.
There are different scales, but the idea is the same.

HARD SCIENCE FICTION

Present Day Technology

Ultra Hard

Very Hard

Plausibly Hard

Firm

Medium

SOFT SCIENCE FICTION

Soft

Very Soft

Mushy Soft

1 - Science in Genre Only

2 - World of Phlebotinum

3 - Physics Plus

4 - One Big Lie

5 - Speculative Science

6 - Real Life

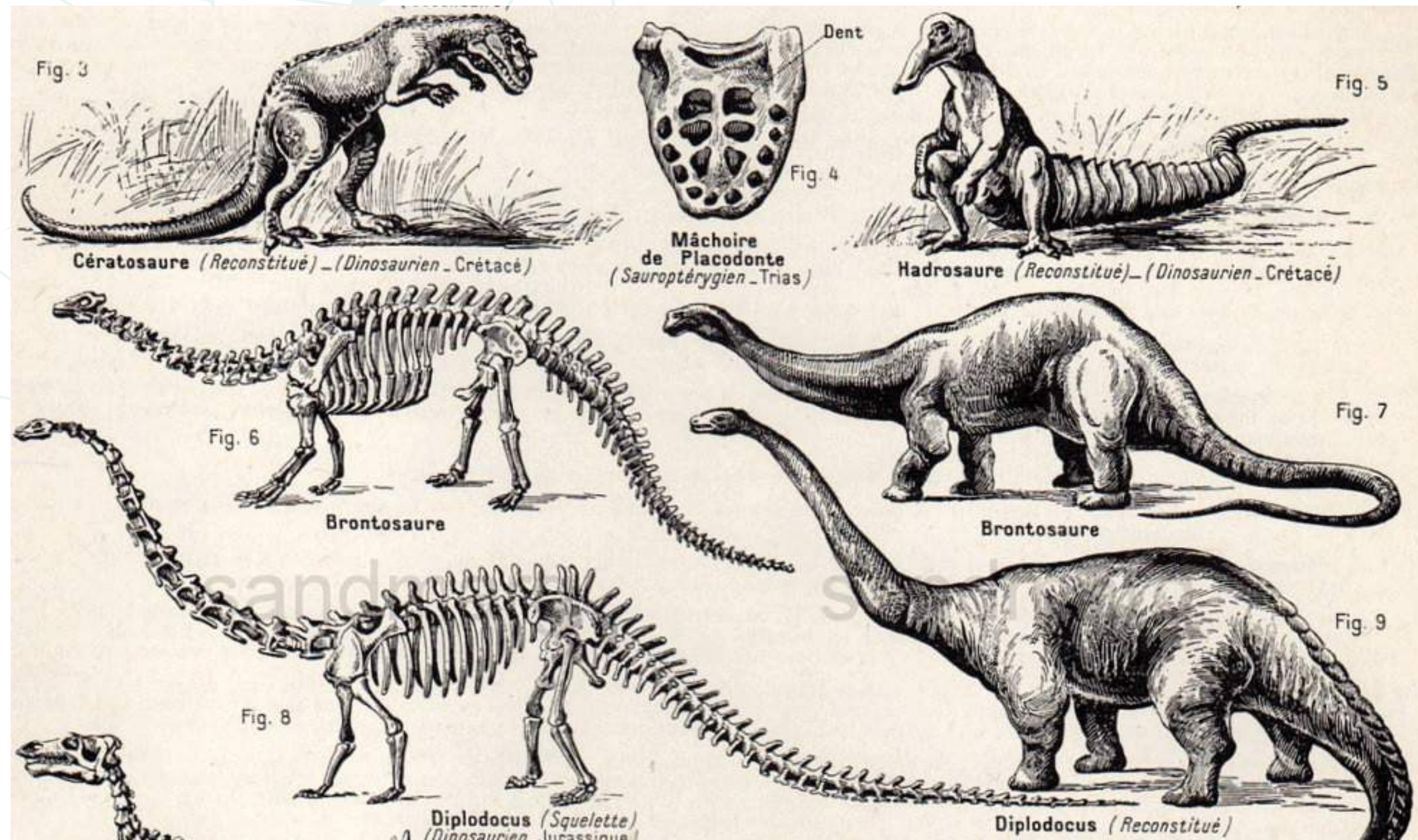


1993



2015

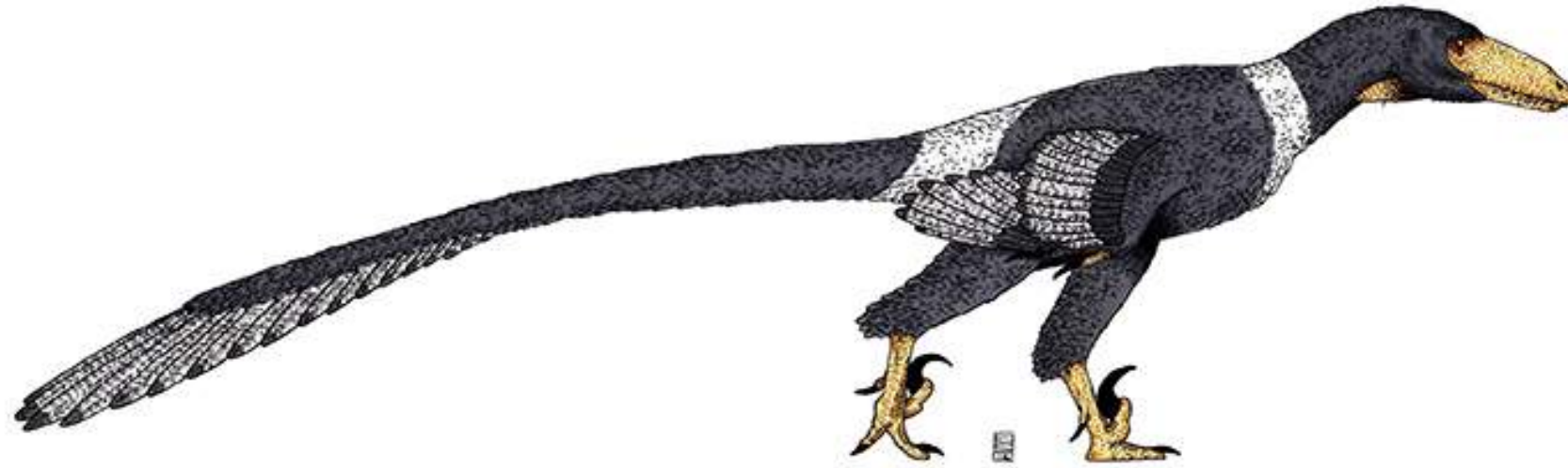
Pre-Jurassic Park Dinosaurs



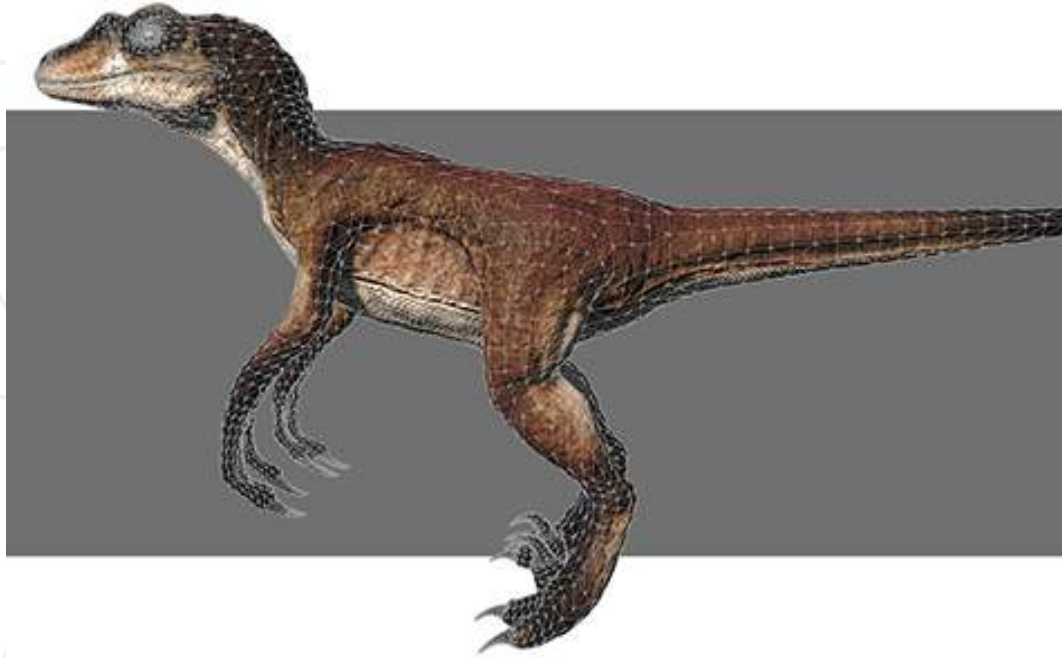
Jurassic Park “Raptor”



Accurate Raptors



Pop culture Products

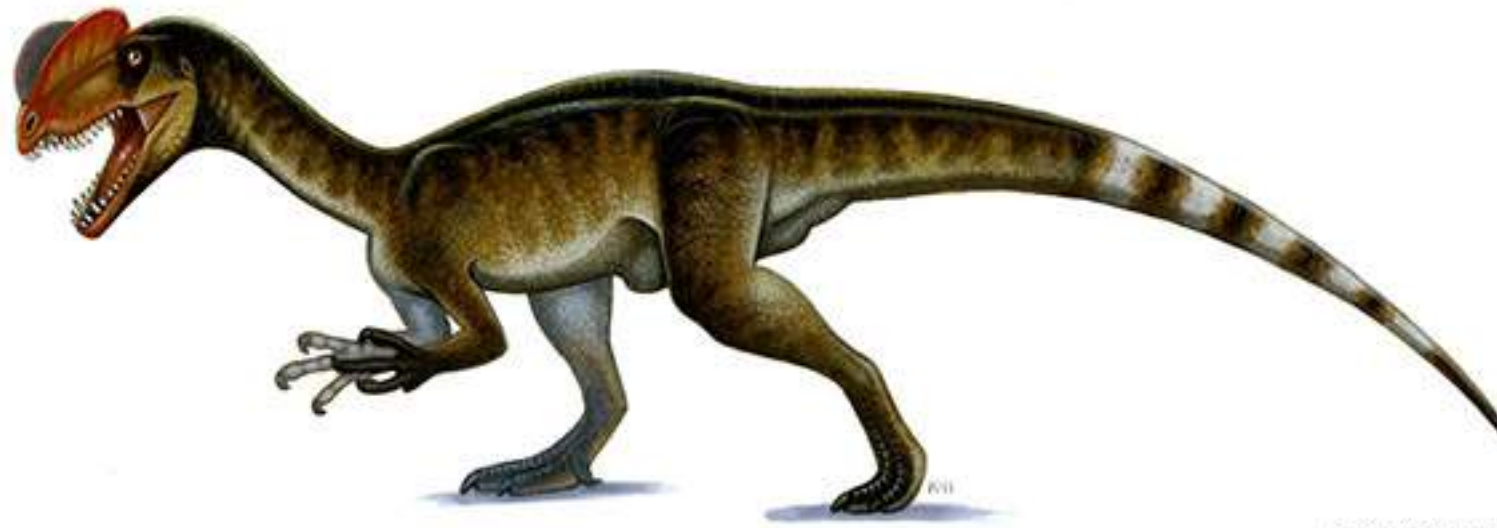


Jurassic Park “Dilophosaurus”

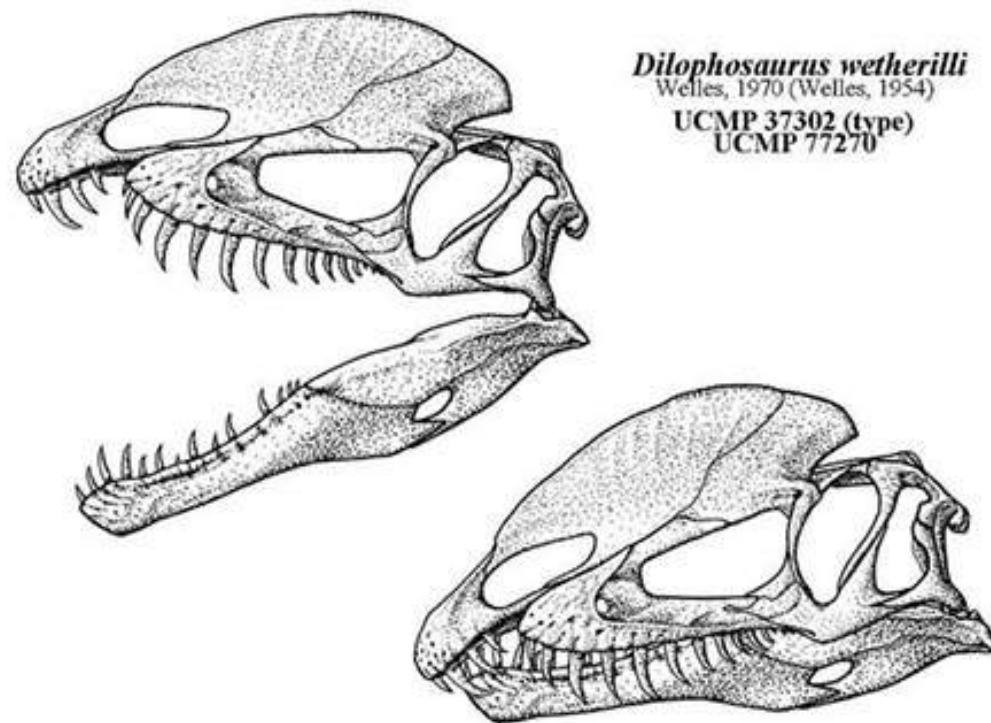


DILOPHOSAURUS “SPITTER”

Accurate Dilophosaurus



© 2011 H. Kyösti Luhtanen



Dilophosaurus wetherilli
Welles, 1970 (Welles, 1954)
UCMP 37302 (type)
UCMP 77270



© Melissa Frankford 2008

Pop culture Products



Why does it matter?

- Our knowledge of the world is composed of details, as irrelevant as they may seem.
- It informs us of variety and strangeness that is constantly surprising and fascinating.
- Knowing basic facts about the past is no less important than knowing that the Earth revolves around the sun, or where China is located.

Why does it matter?

- A blockbuster summer film such as Jurassic World has the opportunity to present the general public with new dinosaurs and other extinct organisms, while also helping the audience assimilate the reality of feathered dinosaurs.
- Letting feathery dinosaurs run wild could inspire a whole new generation of young fossil fans, thrill audiences, and give evolutionary science a much needed boost.



Brought dinosaur research
of the 1980s to 1990s viewers.



Will bring the dinosaur research
of the 1980s to 2010s viewers.

Conclusion

Scientific accuracy, whether as narrative, art, or design, helps avoid creating unnecessary misconceptions which may unintentionally go on to become the inspiration and basis for other stories, merchandise and toys, all based on what is inherently false or outdated knowledge.

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