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THE MOST FEROCIOUS CARNIVORE EVER COMES TO LIFE AT THE PEROT MUSEUM: *T. REX*, THE ULTIMATE PREDATOR

New discoveries reveal the 100 million year evolution of the Tyrannosaurus from harmless hatchling to bone-pulverizing predator

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DALLAS (November 9, 2023) - The fascinating carnivore so often stalking children's imaginations is brought to life in an extraordinary 10-month exhibition, ***T. rex: The Ultimate Predator*** at the **Perot Museum of Nature and Science**. *T. rex* stomps into the Perot, November 13, 2023 through September 22, 2024. Even though *Tyrannosaurus rex* roamed the earth more than 66 million years ago, new discoveries every year mean the modern story of this great species is just beginning to be told.

Perot Museum guests will come face to face with several of the most accurate *T. rex* models ever constructed, many full-sized, towering over all who enter. Spectacular multi-media and video projection expands the exhibit's monster territory where visitors will find casts of amazing fossils, including an imposing *T. rex* skull measuring almost five feet in length. Super-size video projections, an exhilarating interactive reality experience, and plenty of hands-on activities for kids offer an entirely new exploration of the world's most recognizable dinosaur. Guests can even bushwhack with *T. rex* in its Cretaceous Period jungle recreated pixel-by-pixel in an interactive projection wall.

"The Museum strives to find unique ways of empowering and exciting students about STEM through cutting-edge exhibits like *T. rex: The Ultimate Predator*," said Dr. Linda Silver, the Eugene McDermott CEO at Perot Museum of Nature and Science. "With its dynamic blend of skeletons, life-like models, and digital experiences, *T. rex* rekindles a childlike awe for the ferocious hunter thundering through our imagination millions of years after tyrannosaurs became extinct."

Thrilling curious minds of all ages, *T. rex: The Ultimate Predator* explores the evolution and life span of the "tyrant lizard king" from birth to behemoth. The full tyrannosaur story includes dozens of different species spanning over 100 million years of evolution, with the best-known—*T. rex*— only appearing just before the mass extinction event 66 million years ago wiped it from the face of the Earth.

A wildly diverse tyrannosaur family awaits discovery in the exhibit which traces tracks of prehistoric packs living between 167 and 66 million years ago, roaming five continents. The models of the species range from newly hatched feathery chicks, to early stage wolf-sized predators finally evolving to adults topping 40 feet in length, weighing 6 to 9 tons, wielding bone-crushing teeth.

"This innovative exhibit uses some of the latest scientific research by paleontologists to inspire visitors to travel the globe hunting down the places where tyrannosaurs once roamed," said Dr. Ron Tykoski, Vice President of Science and Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Perot Museum of Nature and Science. "We're excited to show off this jaw-dropping exhibit which guides our visitors on an epic journey of the discovery and evolution of these ancient apex predators."

T. rex: The Ultimate Predator offers and equips visitors the opportunity to dig into fossil-finding fieldwork to discover how previously hidden fossil treasures were unearthed and prepared for study and display. The Perot continues its mission to inspire minds through nature and science, showcasing the newest techniques adapted by paleontologists to understand tyrannosaurs. These include counting growth rings preserved in bones to determine a dinosaur's age.

Guests can gauge the powerful hunter's keen sense of hearing, sight and smell from a *T. rex* brain cast, a virtual 3D replica created using CT scan technology. A magical, multimedia projection shows *T. rex* on the hunt, illustrating which unique physical traits made the carnivore such a noted killing machine. A final thrilling sequence in the remarkable "shadow theater" projection shows one *T. rex* fiercely fending off another and, as a result, what injuries and scars were left on its bones. The sheer chomping power of an adult *T. rex* is also demonstrated through a display of coprolites (fossilized *T. rex* droppings), containing pulverized and partially digested pieces of bone.

The most fearsome carnivore of the Mesozoic Era roars into Dallas this month at the Perot Museum, a world class, trusted science resource connecting Dallas to the wonders of nature and science. Since its opening in 2012, the Perot Museum has inspired more than 11 million visitors of all ages.

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About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Located in the heart of Dallas, Texas, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational and research organization dedicated to inspiring minds through nature and science. Visitors will find everything from dinosaurs to diamonds and space to sports, packed into five levels of hand-on discovery and adventure. Through its state-of-the-art exhibits, educational programming and community outreach, the Museum offers exciting and innovative experiences for learners of all ages. For more information, visit perotmuseum.org.

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