

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ceratopsians

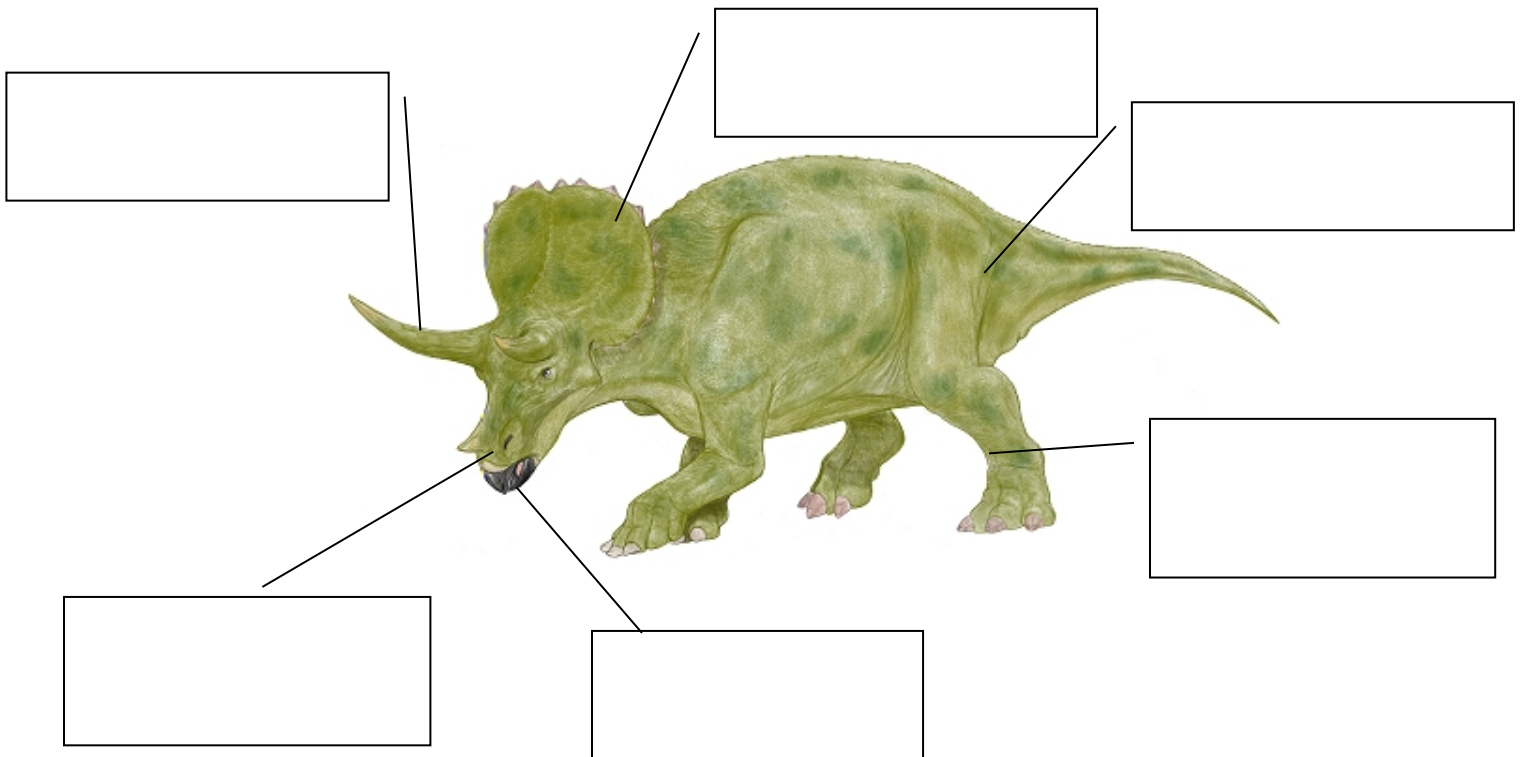
Ceratopsians were a group of herbivorous, beaked dinosaurs. They thrived in what are now known as North America, Europe, and Asia. They lived during the Cretaceous Period.

The earliest known Ceratopsian, a dinosaur named Yinlong, lived between 161.2 and 155.7 million years ago. The last Ceratopsian species became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous era-- 65.5 million years ago.

Early members of the Ceratopsian group, such as Psittacosaurus, were small and bipedal (they walked on two legs). Later members, including **Triceratops**, became large quadrupeds (they walked on four legs). Later members developed elaborate facial horns and frills extending over its neck. While these frills might have served to protect the vulnerable neck from predators, they may also have been used for display.

Ceratopsians ranged in size from 3 feet (1 meter) to over 30 feet (9 meters); some weighed as much as 12,000 pounds. They lived in herds and defended themselves with their horns and their sharp beaks.

Read about the adaptations in the boxes. Cut and paste them in the appropriate boxes.



sharp horns used to stab attacking dinosaurs

strong legs used to hold up its heavy body

flat teeth used to grind plants

a sharp beak to bite attacking dinosaurs

a bony frill to protect its neck or for display

very thick hide to protect it from bites

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY** \_\_\_\_\_

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