

“Big Bert” Carrot River Crocodile

Terminonaris robusta

Name means: “enlarged snout or nose” at the front of the skull.
 Notable Specimen in Saskatchewan: “Big Bert”, the Carrot River Crocodile



Size:

“Big Bert” was approximately 6 m in length. Its skull alone was over a metre long.

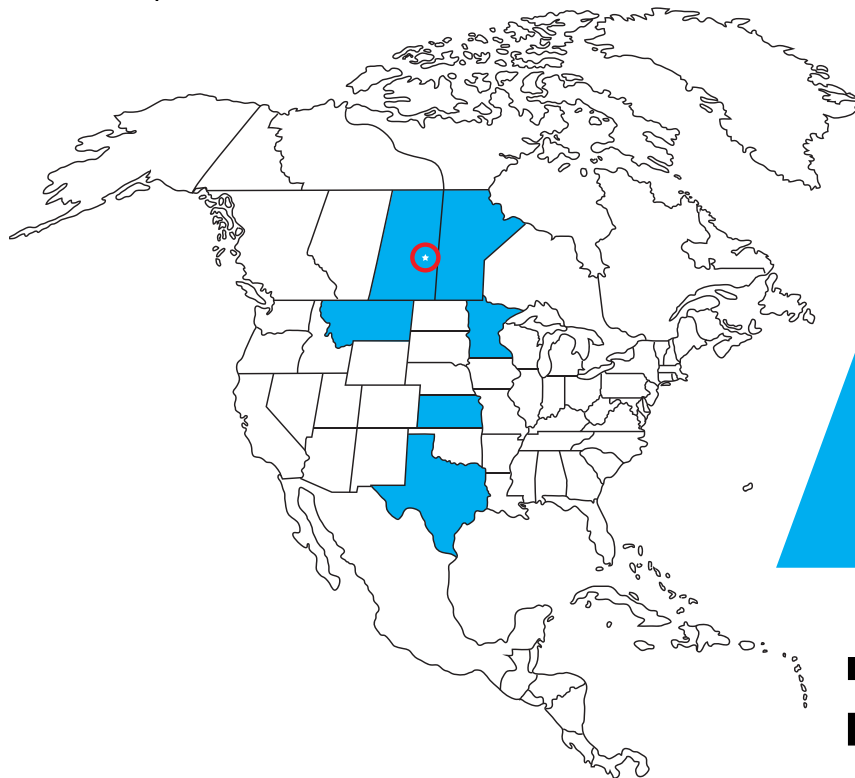


Geologic Timeline

Period	Epoch
NEOGENE (23 million years ago - Present)	Holocene
	Pleistocene
	Pliocene
PALEOGENE (65 million - 23 million years ago)	Miocene
	Oligocene
	Eocene
CRETACEOUS (144 million - 65 million years ago)	Paleocene
	Late
	Early

Age

This skeleton was deposited approximately 92 million years ago, in a rock unit called the Favel Formation.



Geographic range:

Although the genus *Terminonaris* was found from Saskatchewan to Texas, this particular species has only been found in Saskatchewan and Montana.

In Saskatchewan: So far, only one skeleton of *Terminonaris robusta* has been found. In fact, when it was discovered near Carrot River, it was the first specimen discovered in all of Canada.

Food Preference:

The elongated snout and the long, relatively thin teeth suggest that Big Bert was a hunter of fish. And, based on the other fossils found near Big Bert’s fossilized skeleton, there were many choices of fish. The scarring on the snout suggests that it was in a fight at one point in its life, likely with another crocodile.

Habitat:

Big Bert lived in Saskatchewan when much of the province was under water, as part of the Western Interior Seaway. It was found in fine grained sediments with fossils of other marine animals such as large clams, fish, and sharks, so we know it spent its time in warm, deeper waters.

Relations

Terminonaris is an early crocodile, within a subgroup called Mesoeucrocodylia. Modern crocodiles have specific features that show that they are distant relatives of this species, in the subgroup Eusuchia. However, we can compare some features, like the long snout, and the long, thin teeth and see that *Terminonaris* functioned similarly to modern gharial crocodiles which live around the rivers of northern India, and are also good fishers.