

# BONE BLOCK: COELOPHYSIS

**LEVEL** 7th–8th grade

**VIDEO** [CMNH.org/atHome/Ep45](https://cmnh.org/atHome/Ep45)

Paleontologists gather information about prehistoric animals by studying fossils. In this Specimen Spotlight episode, learn what has been discovered about a small dinosaur, *Coelophysis bauri*.

1. During which of the three time periods of the Mesozoic Era did *Coelophysis* live—the Triassic, Jurassic, or Cretaceous? (Hint: It is the only dinosaur from this time period on display at the Museum.)
2. How many individual animals were used to construct the *Coelophysis* displayed at the Museum?
3. Become a paleontologist! Fill in the musculature and add skin and color to the *Coelophysis* skeleton below. Do we know what it was covered with or what color it might have been? Be creative and draw/color your ideas here!



4. In addition to excavating fossils and putting them together, a paleontologist studies the fossils in detail and looks for evidence as to how the animal lived. Answer the following questions and provide evidence from the fossil record.

a) What did *Coelophysis* eat? What is the evidence to support this idea?

b) List three pieces of evidence that support that *Coelophysis* was an active predator.

1.

2.

3.

c) Hundreds of *Coelophysis* skeletons have been found jumbled together. The animals died as a result of some type of event. What might that event have been? Do similar events happen in present times? Use evidence and reasoning to support your claim.