

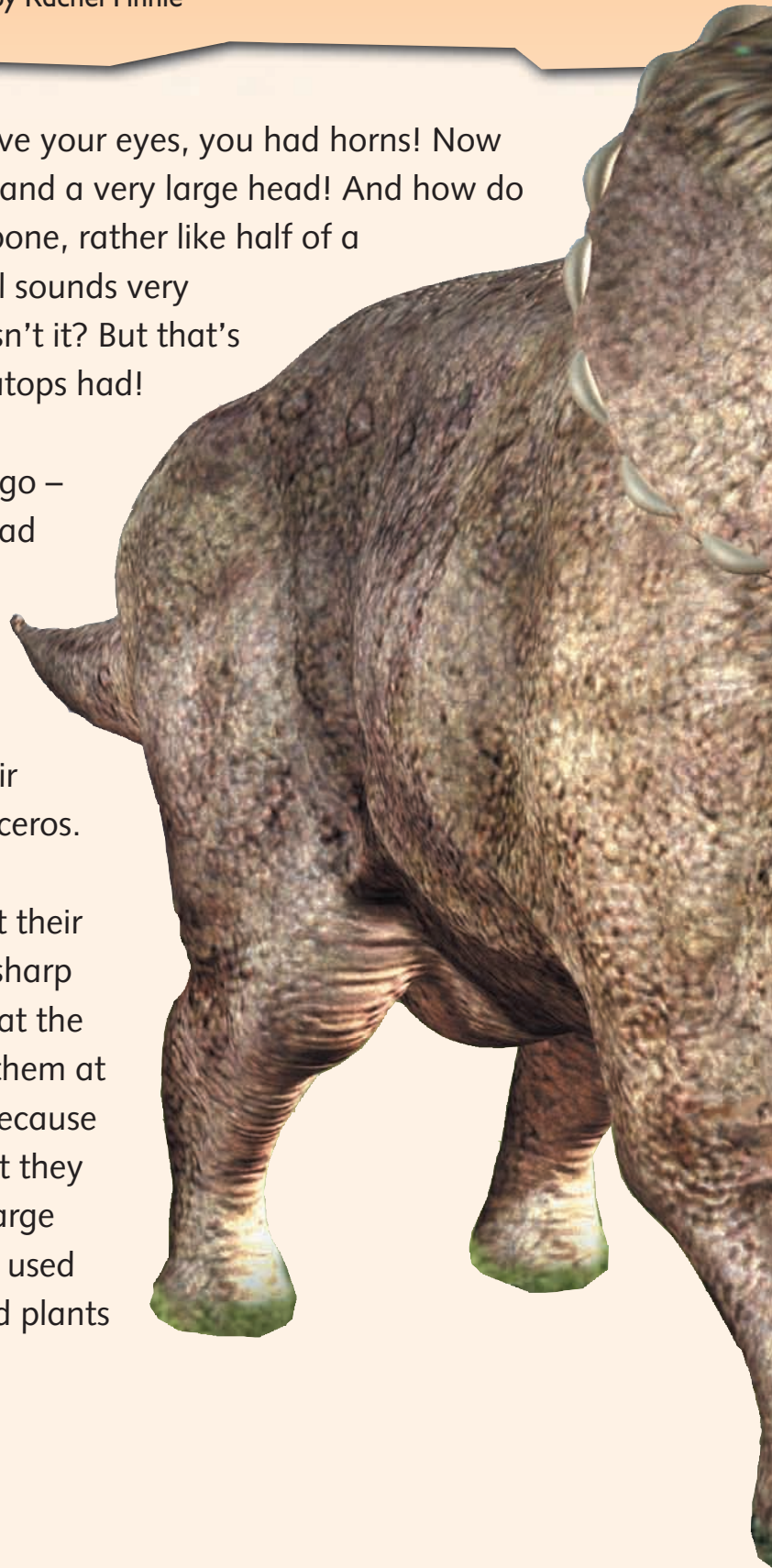
Terrific Triceratops!

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Just imagine if, instead of eyebrows above your eyes, you had horns! Now imagine another horn above your nose, and a very large head! And how do you think it feels to have a big piece of bone, rather like half of a big dinner plate, around your neck? It all sounds very strange, and rather uncomfortable, doesn't it? But that's exactly what the dinosaurs called Triceratops had!

Triceratops lived a very, very long time ago – over 60 million years ago in fact. They had very unusual faces with three horns. That's why they were called 'horned dinosaurs'. They didn't really look exactly the same as any of the animals that are alive today, but the horn on their nose made them look a little like a rhinoceros.

There was something else unusual about their faces. A lot of dinosaurs had very long, sharp teeth. Triceratops didn't have any teeth at the front of their mouths but they did have them at the back! They didn't need front teeth because they didn't eat meat. Do you know what they had instead of teeth? Well, they had a large beak – just like parrots have. Triceratops used their beaks to cut through the leaves and plants they ate every day.





Their horns were useful at meal times, too. They used them to knock down trees so they could reach the tasty leaves and branches from the top of the tree.

Although Triceratops ate lots of plants, they weren't very thin. In fact, they were very big and they weighed about six tons. They were about nine meters long and three meters tall.

If you look at an elephant's feet, you'll see that they're very big. Triceratops's feet were like an elephant's feet but they were a lot bigger. They needed four very big feet to carry all that weight. Imagine how it felt if Triceratops stood on your toes! Now you know a little bit about what Triceratops looked like. You won't see a Triceratops anywhere on Earth today. But if you're lucky, you might see a rhinoceros or a parrot or an elephant. Then you can remember the strange dinosaur with three horns, a beak and very big feet!