

What makes a dinosaur a dinosaur?

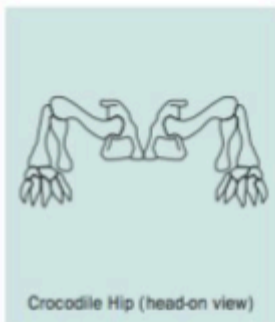
A defining feature of a dinosaur like *Velociraptor* was a hole in their hip socket (a *Velociraptor* was a carnivorous dinosaur closely related to birds). Other reptiles, such as lizards and crocodiles, have legs that sprawl out to the side, with thigh bones almost parallel to the ground. They walk and run with a side-to-side motion.



Dilong paradoxus in his native habitat © AMNH

Dinosaurs, on the other hand, stood with their legs positioned directly under their bodies. A hole in their hip socket permitted this upright stance, which allowed dinosaurs to run faster and with greater endurance than other reptiles of the same size.

From Khan Academy.org



You **do not** have to click on the pictures.

*

<i>Dinosaur or Not a Dinosaur?</i>			
Stegosaurus	Pterodactyl	Mosasaur	Tyrannosaurus rex
