

# Scientists Marvel At Dinosaur ‘Dance Floor’



Scientists are very excited about the discovery of more than 1,000 dinosaur footprints in one place. The footprints were found in an area of the U.S. Southwest.

The area is very unusual because scientists think there are tracks from about four different species of dinosaurs. There also are large and small footprints from the same types of dinosaurs, which could mean young dinosaurs were walking with their mothers. One scientist said that so many footprints so close together made it look like a “dinosaur dance floor.” Besides the footprints, scientists think they found marks from dinosaurs’ tails being dragged along the ground.

## **NEWS WORD BOX**

species discovery  
vermillion determined  
erosion

The footprints range from 1 to 20 inches long and are about 190 million years old. They are located in an area called the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, on the border of Utah and Arizona. Now the area is covered with sand dunes. When the dinosaurs were alive, the area was a vast desert, with small, low watering holes scattered around where dinosaurs would have stopped for a drink. The tracks are in an area where there once was a watering hole.

Scientists have not yet determined what types of dinosaurs were near the watering hole. Based on the sizes of the footprints, scientists think at least one dinosaur walked upright and had a body 16 to 20 feet long. Other tracks probably came from dinosaurs that were only a few feet tall.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT THE DINOSAUR DANCE FLOOR**

- Not all scientists think these are dinosaur footprints. At least one thinks they are holes caused by erosion.
- Scientists were able to see the tracks because the sandstone that had been covering them wore away.

## **THINK ABOUT THE NEWS**

Scientists think the dinosaur tracks are near what used to be a watering hole. Can you think of any other reasons so many dinosaurs would have been in one place? (Other than for a dance)