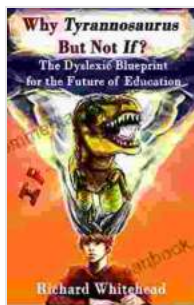


# Tyrannosaurus But Not If: The Evolutionary Mystery of the Two-Fingered Theropods



## Why 'Tyrannosaurus' But Not 'If?': The Dyslexic Blueprint for the Future of Education (The WhyTy Series Book 1) by Camron Wright

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 14902 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 251 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Tyrannosaurus rex is one of the most iconic dinosaurs that ever lived. Its massive size, powerful jaws, and tiny arms have made it a pop culture icon. But one of the most distinctive features of Tyrannosaurus is its two-fingered hand.

All other theropods, the group of dinosaurs that includes Tyrannosaurus, had three fingers. So why did Tyrannosaurus lose its third finger? This is a question that has puzzled paleontologists for decades.

One theory is that Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger as a result of natural selection. The third finger may have been less useful for hunting than the

other two fingers, and so it may have gradually become smaller and weaker over time. Eventually, it may have disappeared altogether.

Another theory is that Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger as a result of a developmental constraint. This is the idea that certain traits are linked together in the genome, and that it is impossible to change one trait without also changing the other. In the case of Tyrannosaurus, the loss of the third finger may have been linked to the development of its massive skull and jaws.

Whatever the reason, the loss of the third finger is a fascinating example of how evolution can work. It shows that even the most iconic animals can undergo significant changes over time, and that the forces of natural selection can shape the morphology of animals in surprising ways.

## **The Evidence for the Two-Fingered Hand**

The evidence for the two-fingered hand in Tyrannosaurus is overwhelming. Fossils of Tyrannosaurus forelimbs show that they had only two fingers, and the bones of these fingers are fused together. This fusion suggests that the third finger had disappeared long before Tyrannosaurus evolved.

Other theropods, such as Allosaurus and Velociraptor, had three fingers. This suggests that the loss of the third finger in Tyrannosaurus was a unique evolutionary development.

## **The Theories for the Loss of the Third Finger**

There are two main theories for why Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger.

### **Natural Selection**

One theory is that Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger as a result of natural selection. The third finger may have been less useful for hunting than the other two fingers, and so it may have gradually become smaller and weaker over time. Eventually, it may have disappeared altogether.

There is some evidence to support this theory. For example, the third finger in other theropods is often used for grasping prey. Tyrannosaurus, on the other hand, had a powerful bite that could crush the bones of its prey. This suggests that the third finger may have been less important for hunting in Tyrannosaurus than it was in other theropods.

### **Developmental Constraint**

Another theory is that Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger as a result of a developmental constraint. This is the idea that certain traits are linked together in the genome, and that it is impossible to change one trait without also changing the other. In the case of Tyrannosaurus, the loss of the third finger may have been linked to the development of its massive skull and jaws.

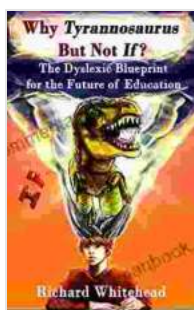
There is some evidence to support this theory as well. For example, the genes that control the development of the skull and jaws are also involved in the development of the limbs. This suggests that it may have been difficult for Tyrannosaurus to evolve a three-fingered hand without also changing the size and shape of its skull and jaws.

### **The**

The loss of the third finger in Tyrannosaurus is a fascinating example of how evolution can work. It shows that even the most iconic animals can

undergo significant changes over time, and that the forces of natural selection can shape the morphology of animals in surprising ways.

The two main theories for why Tyrannosaurus lost its third finger are natural selection and developmental constraint. Both theories have some evidence to support them, but it is still not clear which theory is correct. Further research is needed to determine the exact reason for the loss of the third finger in Tyrannosaurus.



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