

The Story of Sue

Sue is a funny name for a dinosaur, especially a Tyrannosaurus Rex. She lived nearly 67 million years ago, according to what scientists believe. When she died, her body was covered by mud and sand. Over time, the hard parts of her body were replaced by minerals.

Sue's fossil remains were discovered in 1990, near Faith, South Dakota. The person who discovered them was with a team of fossil hunters. She stayed behind while they went into town to fix a flat tire on their truck. As she hiked over to some sandstone bluffs nearby, she saw the fossil bones sticking out of the ground. When her team returned, they decided to name it Sue, in her honor.

It took five years to sort out who owned the land and had the rights to claim Sue's remains. It was finally decided that they belonged to a rancher who owned the property Sue was found on. He decided to sell Sue at a public auction. The new owner was The Field Museum in Chicago. With the help of several sponsors, Sue was purchased for \$8.4 million- the most ever paid for a fossil.

Each of Sue's 200 plus bones had to be carefully removed from the surrounding layers of rock and soil. It took over 25,000 hours of work by many individuals to clean and repair her bones for display at the museum.

Sue is the largest, most complete, and best preserved T. Rex fossil ever discovered. She stands 13 feet high at the hips and is 42 feet long, from head to tail. It is estimated that she would have weighed nearly 7 tons when she was alive. Her head alone was 5 feet long, and some of her teeth measured 12 inches!