

“Stan” the *Tyrannosaurus rex*

This magnificent replica of the *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton, known as “Stan,” was discovered in South Dakota and excavated by the Black Hills Institute staff in 1992. “Stan” is one of the most scientifically accurate examples of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* in existence today and his skull is the most complete ever found. “Stan” lived on the earth during the late Cretaceous period approximately 65 million years ago.

Posed with his huge skull reaching forward as though walking through the forest, Stan is over forty feet long, measuring 13 feet high at the hip. He truly towers over the Children’s Library.

How it was done

The staff of the Black Hills Institute carefully made molds from the real “Stan” fossil skeleton. Our cast replica was hand-poured, using high quality resin, with a finish that looks and feels like the original specimen. The durable replica you see here at the library can be touched without the same risk of damage that there would be with the original fossil skeleton.

Stan was shipped in crates to the Cerritos Library and carefully assembled in one long day. The staff eagerly participated in uncrating and sorting the hundreds of replicated fossil bones. They were then carefully assembled by paleontologist Peter L. Larson and his team from the Black Hills Institute, the same team that pieced together the original “Stan” to make the replica for the Cerritos Library.

An almost invisible, but strong steel framework supports “Stan” and keeps him firmly in his place. No running wild—this is a library, after all!

After “Stan” was assembled, his rock base was installed around the supporting steel framework.