

CAPTION

Jurassic Mural

Meat-eaters chase a long-necked *Mamenchisaurus* and other plant-eaters in this mural depicting the Jurassic period in central China. Known as the “Age of Giants,” the Jurassic period took place 205 million to 142 million years ago. Giant reptiles – the largest land animals ever – ruled the Earth, and the first birds joined flying reptiles in the air. In the warm oceans, spiral-shelled ammonites swam above corals, sponges and other invertebrates. Huge marine reptiles patrolled the waters in search of prey. During the Jurassic period, Pangaea began to fracture along the equator and drift northward, though the continents remained connected. The Earth was much warmer, with a subtropical climate reaching Arctic and Antarctic latitudes. Encounter the dramatic dinosaurs of China, one of the world’s hottest spots for dinosaur discovery. Learn more about the three periods of the Mesozoic era at The Field Museum’s *Dinosaur Dynasty: Discoveries from China*, running May 27, 2005 through April 23, 2006. See authentic fossils and life-size casts, and gain new insights into the creatures that ruled China for 165 million years. For more information, call (312) 922-9410.

Photo Credit: Courtesy Royal British Columbia Museum

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