

# ROM



Austroraptor © ROM, 2012

## **Raptors: Fierce & Feathered**

# The Exhibition

"Raptors" have become one of the most popular dinosaurs since their rise to fame in the 1993 blockbuster film *Jurassic Park*. Scientifically, they have also played a fundamental role in reshaping our understanding of dinosaur behaviour, evolution, and their connection to modern birds.

While popular imagination often casts raptors as fearsome predators, this exhibition both meets those expectations and challenges them—revealing a more

nuanced, even 'softer' side of these animals. It is the first exhibition to explore the evolution, morphology, and behaviour of raptor species in depth.

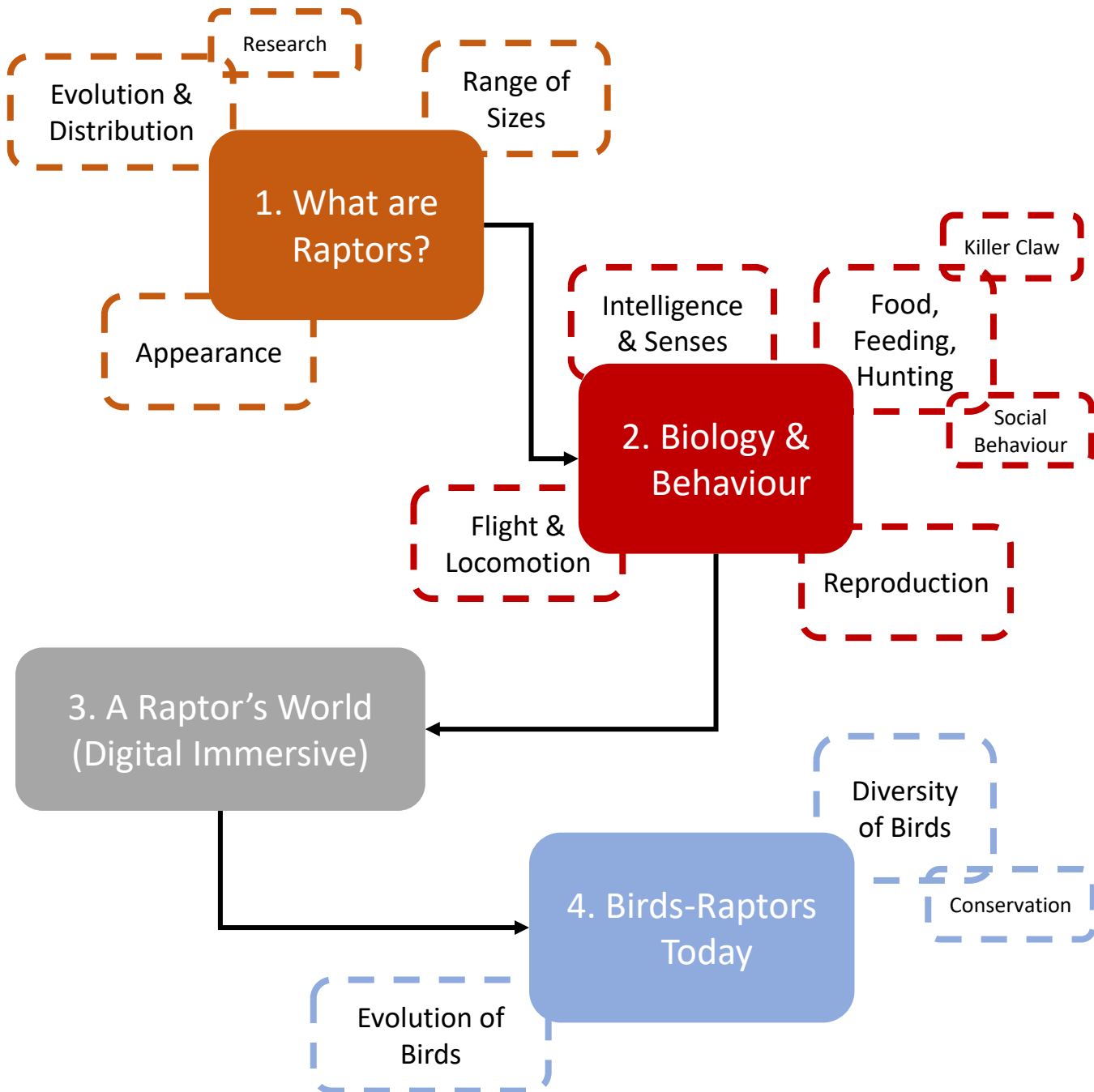
Through outstanding objects, hands-on interactives, and an immersive digital experience, visitors will be transported back to the Cretaceous period to encounter these iconic dinosaurs and discover their enduring link to the birds we see today.



Raptors in the kitchen—famous scene from the blockbuster film *Jurassic Park* (1993).

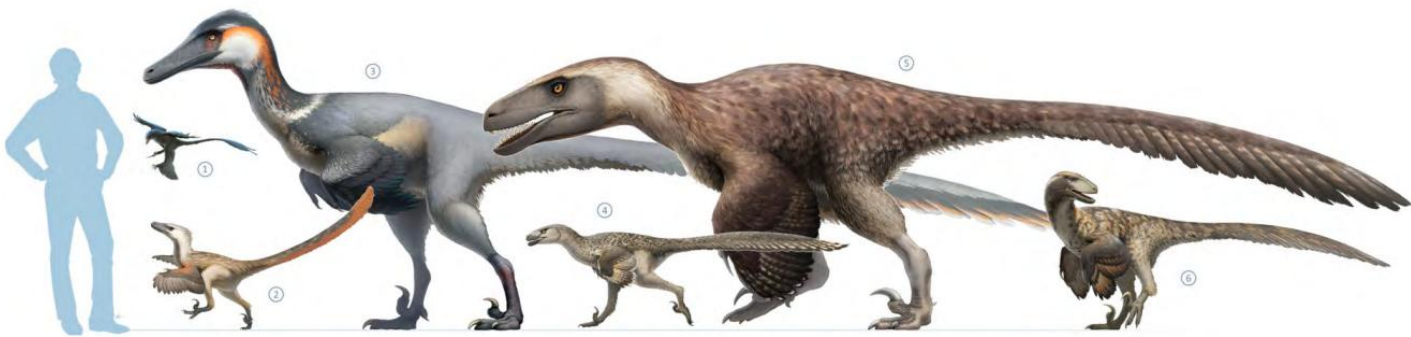
# Interpretive Framework

Curiosity, discovery, and wonder will mark the visitor's journey through the exhibition. What we think we know about these dinosaurs will be challenged as science reveals the breadth of raptor diversity—their intelligence, social and nurturing behaviour, and striking bird-like traits.



# What are Raptors?

Visitors are introduced to the diverse world of raptors, which vary widely in size and appearance. A key highlight compares the *Jurassic Park* film version of a raptor with what science now tells us they actually looked like. Visitors also learn about current research and the rare fossil discoveries that have been made around the world.



Size chart of different well-known raptors. Fred Wierum (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Original skeleton of "Julieraptor." ROM



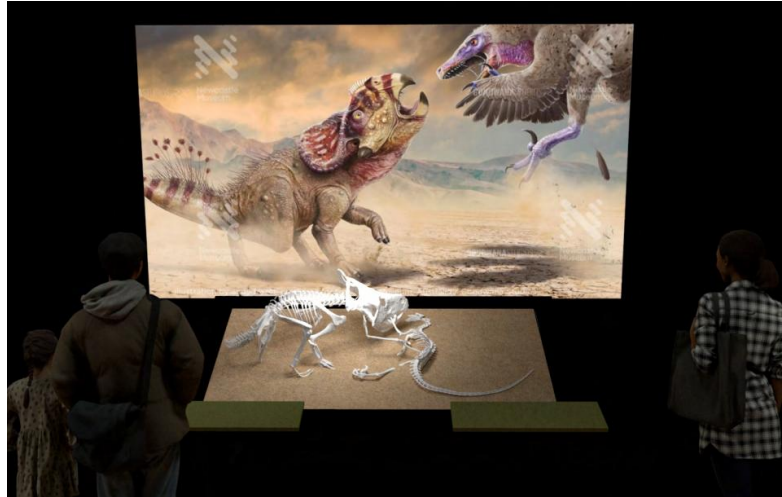
*Acheroraptor temertyorum*. ROM

# Raptor Biology and Behaviour

Hunting, preening, parenting—these are just some of the behaviours explored through large dioramas, hands-on interactives, and AV experiences. The raptor’s defining feature, the ‘killer claw,’ receives special attention. How did it work—and which birds today have inherited it?



Articulated raptor claw is compared to a hawk’s talons.



Conceptual rendering of the famous “Fighting Dinosaurs.”

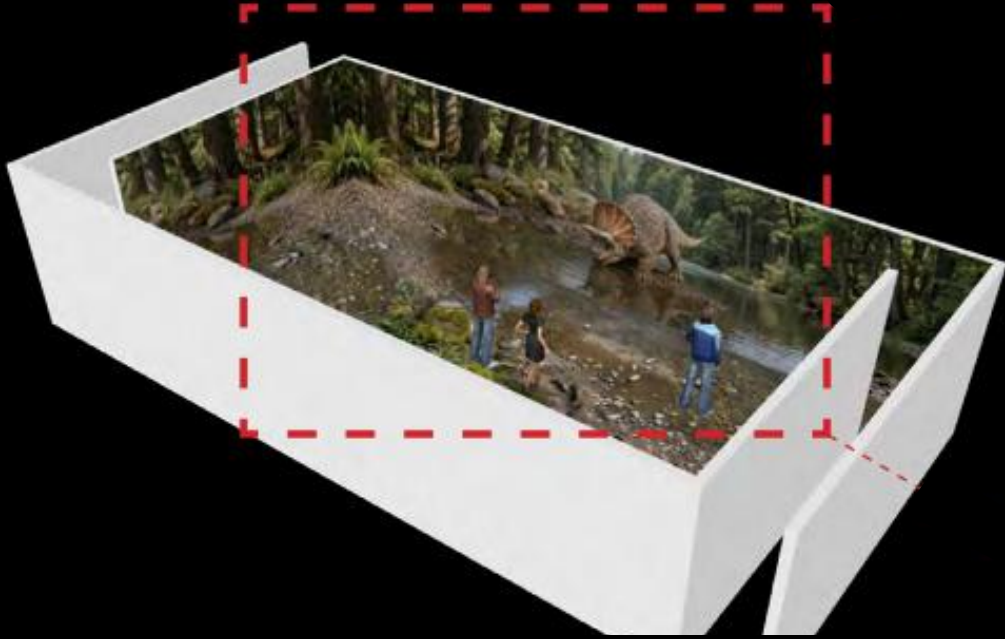
A cast of the fossil is enlivened by a media experience that reconstructs the battle and the events leading to final demise of a *Velociraptor* and *Protoceratops*.



Conceptual rendering of a pack of raptors hunting.

# A Raptor's Worlds - Digital Immersive

Visitors will be engaged by a large format immersive room that transports them to the Cretaceous period to engage with raptors as they hunt, preen, care for their young, and interact with other dinosaurs.



Conceptual rendering.

# Birds – Raptors Today

The final section is a light-filled area with mounted birds – living dinosaurs! Visitors learn about the evolution of birds, in particular modern raptors and the characteristics they share with raptor dinosaurs. A conservation message reminds us to care and protect bird species. Venues are encouraged to incorporate local bird specimens that their audiences would encounter in their daily lives.



Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, and Northern Saw-whet. ROM

Conceptual rendering of bird diversity display.



Swallow-tailed Kite. ROM



American Kestrel with Sparrow. ROM



Conceptual rendering of projection mapping experience where fossils come to life.

## Lead Curator: Dr. David Evans

Dr. David C. Evans holds the Temerty Chair in Vertebrate Palaeontology and oversees dinosaur research at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto as well as ROM's Co-Chief Curator of Natural History. Evans is recognized globally as an authority on the rich dinosaur fossil record of Canada, and on the mass extinction event that marked the end of the Age of Dinosaurs.



Evans' research focuses on the evolution, ecology and diversity of dinosaurs, and their relationship to environmental changes leading up to the end Cretaceous mass extinction event. Active in the field, he has participated in expeditions all over the world, including Africa, Mongolia, and Canada, and has helped discover ten new dinosaur species in the last five years - including the remarkable horned dinosaur *Wendiceratops* from southern Alberta, and the wickedly armoured *Zuul* named after the *Ghostbusters* movie monster.

Evans has been featured on numerous television shows and was co-creator of the HISTORY series *Dino Hunt Canada*. He helped develop ROM's dinosaur galleries and was Lead Curator of the major travelling exhibition *Ultimate Dinosaurs: Giants from Gondwana*.

# About the Exhibition

This bilingual exhibition (Canadian English and French) contains the following components:

**Availability:** February 2028; 5 months per venue

**Size:** 7,000–8,500 ft<sup>2</sup> / 650–790 m<sup>2</sup>

## Content Included

- 50-65 objects (original fossils, casts, model skeletons, and taxidermied specimens)
- Props and touchables
- Mechanical and digital interactives
- Digital immersive experience

## Fee

- Available upon request
- Includes: all specimens, models/casts, props; object mounts; exhibition furniture; integrated bilingual didactics; scientific illustrations by Palaeo-artist Julius Csotonyi; reproduction rights; mechanical and digital interactives; AV equipment and software; crating and packing; labour for ROM's AV contractor.

## Additional Venue Costs

- Inbound shipping
- Insurance
- ROM installation team travel costs (flight, hotel, per diem, ground transportation)
- Graphic and AV production (in languages other than ENG/FR)
- Equipment for de-/installation
- Local costs, security, crate storage
- Construction of Immersive Theatre walls (TBC)
- Provision of local de-/installation team, including AV Technician

**For more information contact:**

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