

**FOSSIL  
HUNTERS**

# The **ALBERTOSAURUS MYSTERY**

**Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands**



by T. V. Padma

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# Searching Without a Map

Philip Currie was thirsty and tired. It was one of the hottest summer days of 1997. He and his team were looking for **fossils** that belonged to a dinosaur called *Albertosaurus* (al-bur-toh-SOR-uhss).



Philip Currie

Many fossils are buried in Canada's **badlands**. More than 40 kinds of dinosaurs once lived there.



Almost 90 years earlier, a famous fossil hunter named Barnum Brown had found a **fossil field** in western Canada's badlands. Many albertosaurs were buried in it. Philip was trying to find this place again.

It was like looking for a needle in a haystack. Brown had not made a map or written down where he had found the fossils. Philip had few **clues**—just some notes and four old photos.



The badlands of western Canada are full of hills. Philip didn't know which hill held Brown's fossils.

# Discovery!

The team was running out of water. Everyone except Philip went back to the **camp**. He continued on with the search. Sand flies and mosquitoes bit him. His head hurt.

Philip had seen the remains of Brown's campsite earlier in the day. He knew the bones must be close.



Philip was trying to find the location of *Albertosaurus* fossils shown in Brown's old photograph.

All alone, Philip climbed another hill. He stopped to hold up a photo. It looked just like the scene in front of him. He also could see that years ago someone had dug into the rock there. Philip had found Brown's **bone bed**!



Holes or cuts in rocky hills are clues that someone might have dug there before.

Brown's photo was old, but Philip could see that the hills still looked the same.

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T. V. Padma is a writer and a scientist. She has written many books and articles for children, young adults, and adults. She also works at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School.

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# The **ALBERTOSAURUS MYSTERY**

**Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands**

Philip Currie was thirsty and tired. It was one of the hottest days of the summer. He and his team were looking for the bones of a large meat-eating dinosaur called *Albertosaurus*.

Almost 90 years earlier, a famous fossil hunter named Barnum Brown had found the remains of many of these dinosaurs. Would Philip be able to find Brown's bone bed? If he did, would he be able to explain why so many of these fierce meat-eaters died in the same spot?

**ENDORSED BY**

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of Los Angeles County

**The *Albertosaurus* Mystery**  
**Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands**

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**A *T. rex* Named Sue**  
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