

T. rex named Sue

Meat-eating monster is 13 metres long and 67 million years old; you can pay her a visit on the Internet

BY DONNA LAPORTE
STARSHIP SPECIAL

CHICAGO — What do you do when you find a wishbone? Pull it apart and make a wish.

Except when it's a foot long and embedded in rock, like the one found by an amateur fossil hunter in South Dakota.

The wishbone belonged to Sue, a Tyrannosaurus rex that stood 4 metres tall at the hips and was 13 metres long.

It's the largest, best preserved and most complete T. rex ever found.

Scientists aren't really sure if the theropod — that's a dinosaur that ate meat and walked on two legs — is male or female.

They named her after

found her.

This is the first wishbone ever found in a T. rex and could be an important clue as to how theropods are linked to birds.

You can come face to face with the 67-million-year-old dinosaur at Chicago's Field Museum, where it went on permanent display the middle of last month.

So how do you get face to face with Sue?

Well, her 1.5-metre-long skull is on display separately, because it's too heavy for her body. A cast replica is mounted on the body.

It took 3,500 hours to put Sue back together. Her skull, which was smashed,

reconstructed.

If you can't get to Chicago, you can see how all this was done by going to the Website:

www.fieldmuseum.org/sue/kids.html

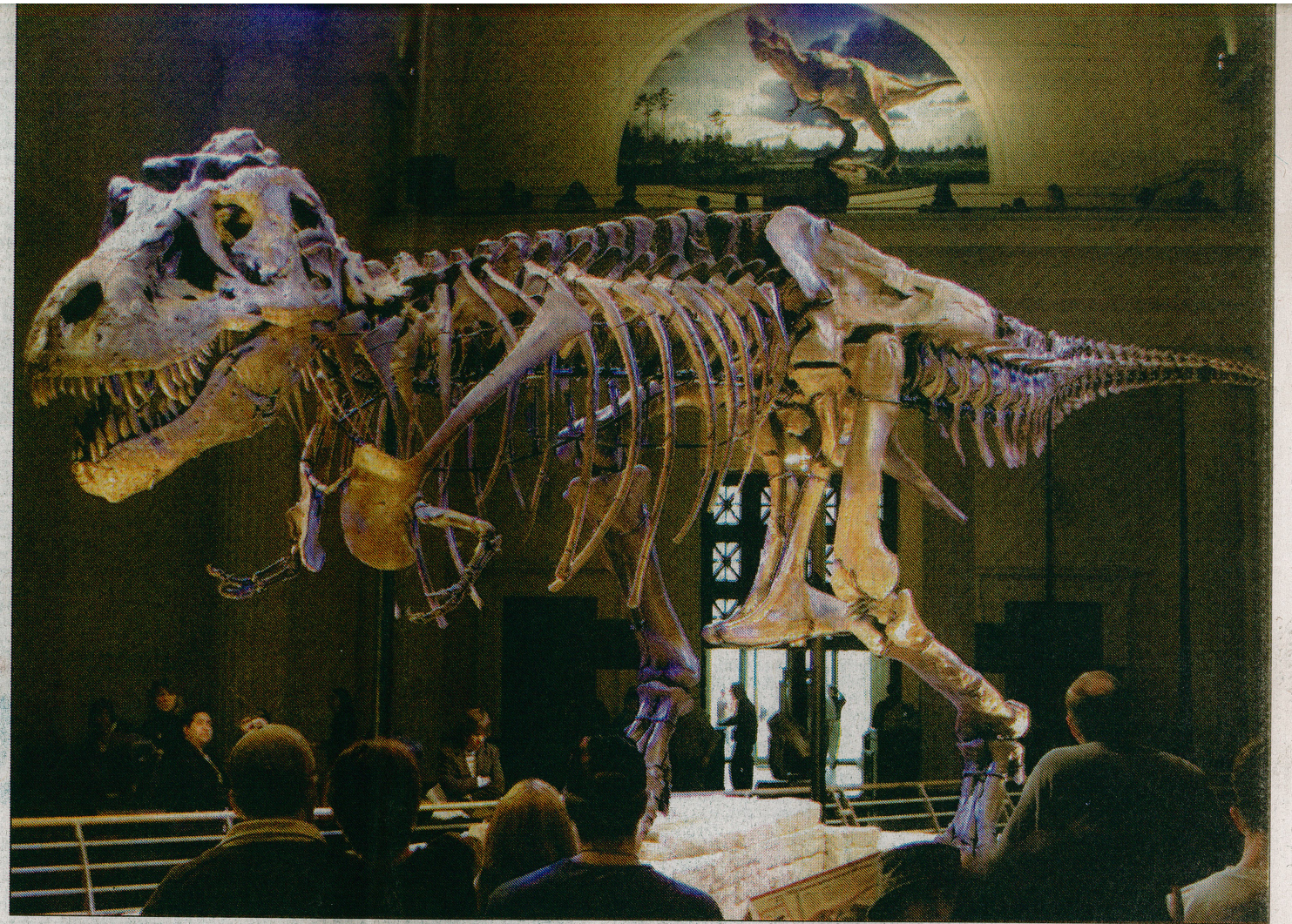
There you'll find several images, including a closeup of Sue's brain, shaped like a knobby sweet potato.

You can look at x-rays of her skull, which helped scientists recreate what it might have looked like.

You'll see how her bones (she has 200) were cleaned and repaired.

The bones are attached to a specially designed steel frame.

You can also download and print 20 images on heavy paper to make a flip



SHOE SIZE, PLEASE?: Sue Hendrickson, above, shows off the enormous foot of the Tyrannosaurus rex named after her. Top, the dinosaur went on display last month in Chicago's Field Museum.

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