How do paleontologists know what dinosaurs looked like?

Looking only at fossils found in the earth, paleontologists have used science and their imaginations to figure out what dinosaurs might have looked like. Many different types of fossils are found in national parks all over the country. Pretend you’re the first person to ever find the fossils featured below. What do you think these animals would have looked like?

Draw a picture of what you envision in the empty box beside each fossil.

Apatosaurus found at Dinosaur National Monument (CO)

Triceratops ancestor found at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (UT)

Mammoth found at Waco Mammoth National Monument (TX)