

Cycads

About one hundred and sixty million years ago, cycads were the main plants on the planet. At that time, the weather was much warmer and wetter than it is now.

Reptiles of many kinds, including dinosaurs, roamed the forests of cycads. The vegetarian animals fed on these plants.



Times have changed: now the main animals on the planet are mammals. Flowering plants and conifers are now the main vegetation in the world.

There are now only about 100 species of cycads, which live in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

More cycad facts:

- Cycads have stout trunks that are covered with the stumps of fallen leaf bases.
- They vary in height from under a metre to over 5 metres.
- The large, fern-like leaves feel stiff and leathery.
- Large seeds are produced in woody cones.
- Cycads are very slow-growing plants.