

PTERO-DRAW!

Trace the outline of the fossilised remains and use your imagination to recreate your very own pterosaur.

Congratulations, you have discovered a new species of pterosaur!

Pterosaurs (winged lizards) were flying reptiles that ruled the skies in the time of the dinosaurs, 251 to 65 million years ago. Pterosaurs were not dinosaurs but were closely related to them. They occupied every habitat, and ranged from tiny insectivores to the largest-ever flying creature.

SPECIMEN DETAILS

SCIENTIFIC NAME

MEANING OF NAME

DISCOVERED BY

DIET

TIME PERIOD (TICK BOX)

- Triassic (251–200mya) Jurassic (200–145 mya)
 Cretaceous (145–65 mya)

HABITAT





Pteranodon sternbergi

(ter-ran-oh-don)

Meaning of name: Winged and toothless

These large pterosaurs had a short tail, a long neck and skull, and a small body that palaeontologists think was partly covered with hair. Palaeontologists think that they mainly ate fish. *Pteranodon* fossils have been found in areas that would once have been wetlands and coastal lagoons, several with fossilised fish in their stomachs. *Pteranodon* had good balance and eyesight. It could probably swim, and would have made 'belly landings' on the water, holding its wings high to avoid damage.

Pteranodon lived 90–70 million years ago, Cretaceous

Illustration of *Pteranodon longiceps*
Artist & Source: Mineo Shiraishi



Quetzalcoatlus northropi

(ket-sal-co-atil-us)

Meaning of name: Named after Aztec feathered serpent god, Quetzalcoatl

This enormous pterosaur, or flying reptile, may have been the largest flying animal ever. Its body was quite small, but provided an anchor for its huge leathery wings, which stretched from a very long fourth finger to the top of its leg. Its 12-metre wingspan would have enabled it to soar and glide over long distances, while its keen eyesight would have meant that it could locate food from high in the sky. Recent evidence suggests that *Quetzalcoatlus* may have had feeding habits a bit like those of modern storks, combining scavenging for carrion with preying on small animals, such as small dinosaurs.

Quetzalcoatlus lived 70–65 million years ago, Cretaceous

Detail of a Life restoration of a group of giant azhdarchids, *Quetzalcoatlus northropi*.
Artist & Source: Mark Witton and Darren Naish



***Anhanguera blittersdorffi* – an expert flyer**

(ann-yang-wear-ah)

Meaning of name: Old devil

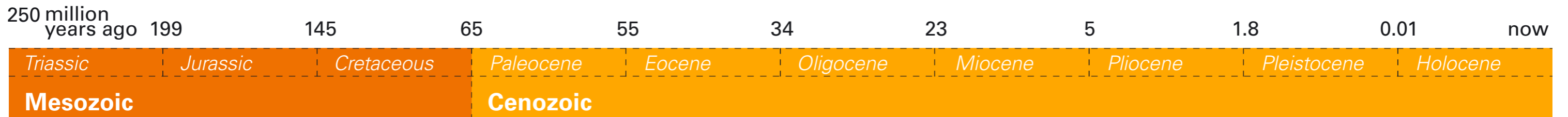
Anhanguera was a fish eating pterosaur.

Anhanguera had long sturdy jaws, with a crest on top of its snout. This feature may have provided stability as *Anhanguera* snatched fish from the sea as it skimmed the surface. It would then have used its small needle-like teeth to ensure its catch didn't fall out of its mouth during flight. This was important because *Anhanguera* pointed its head at an angle towards the ground during flight.

Anhanguera lived 112–99 million years ago, Cretaceous

Watercolour illustration of *Ornithocheirus Giganteus*
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TIMELINE



For more fun paleo activities check out the **Dinosaur Walk** website
museums victoria.com.au/melbournmuseum/resources/dinosaur-walk/



PTERO-DRAW!

FOSSIL REMAINS STENCILS

