

Pteranodon

The pteranodon, of the Cretaceous period, was a very large flying reptile!

Pteranodon dinosaurs lived during the Late Cretaceous Period, 86 to 84.5 million years ago in what is now the central United States. Over 1,000 fossils have been found in Alabama, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

This animal had as much as a 20 foot wingspan.

Two different types have been found, one with a long, sharp crest on its head and long wings; the other with smaller wings, a short, rounded crest, and wide hips.

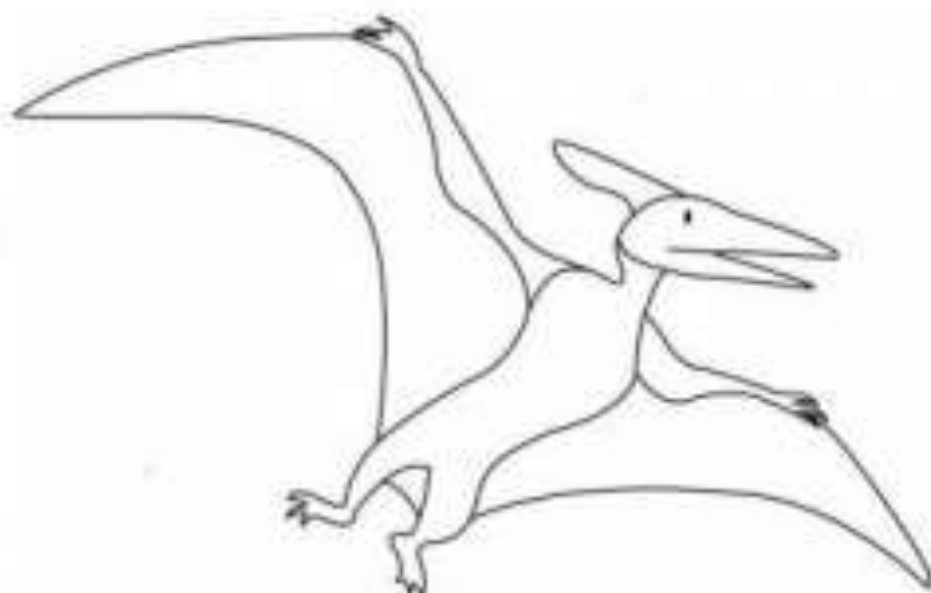
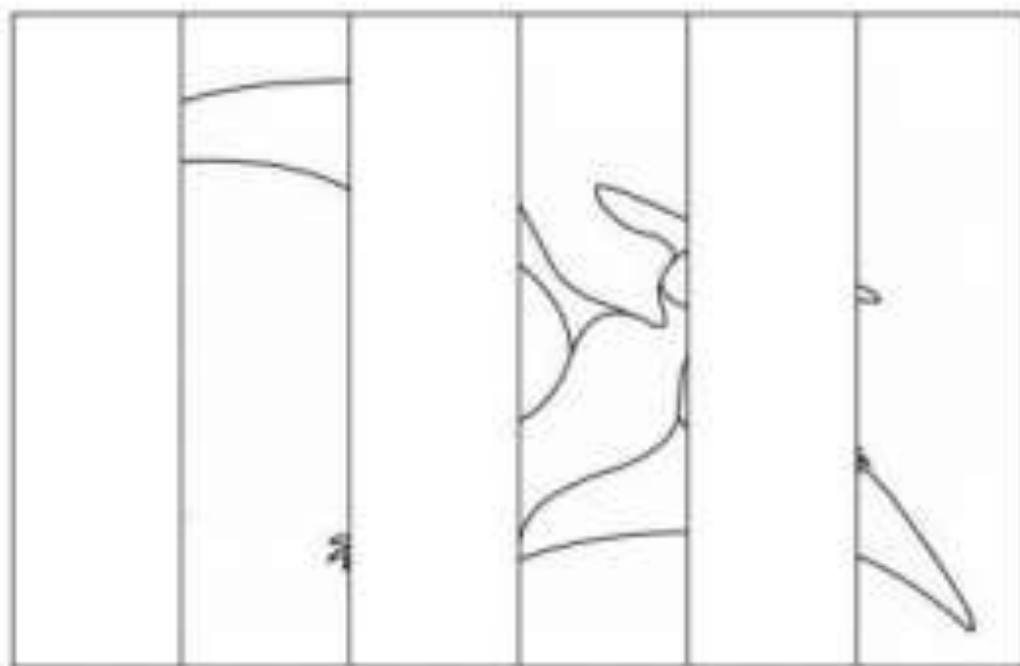
At first, scientists wondered if they were looking at two different species. Now they believe Pteranodon was *sexually dimorphic*, which means that males and females of the species look different.

The males probably had the longer wings and longer crest, while the females probably had the wider hips for carrying and laying eggs.

Pteranodon means “Toothless Wing.” These animals were carnivores. They had long sharp beaks (their skulls with beaks were longer than the entire rest of their bodies), and were probably experts at diving from the sky to spear fish and other aquatic prey from the sea.

Their wings were not only long, but very strong. Most of the area was covered in water at the time. They probably spent much of their time soaring over the water, and might have even been able to sleep while in flight.

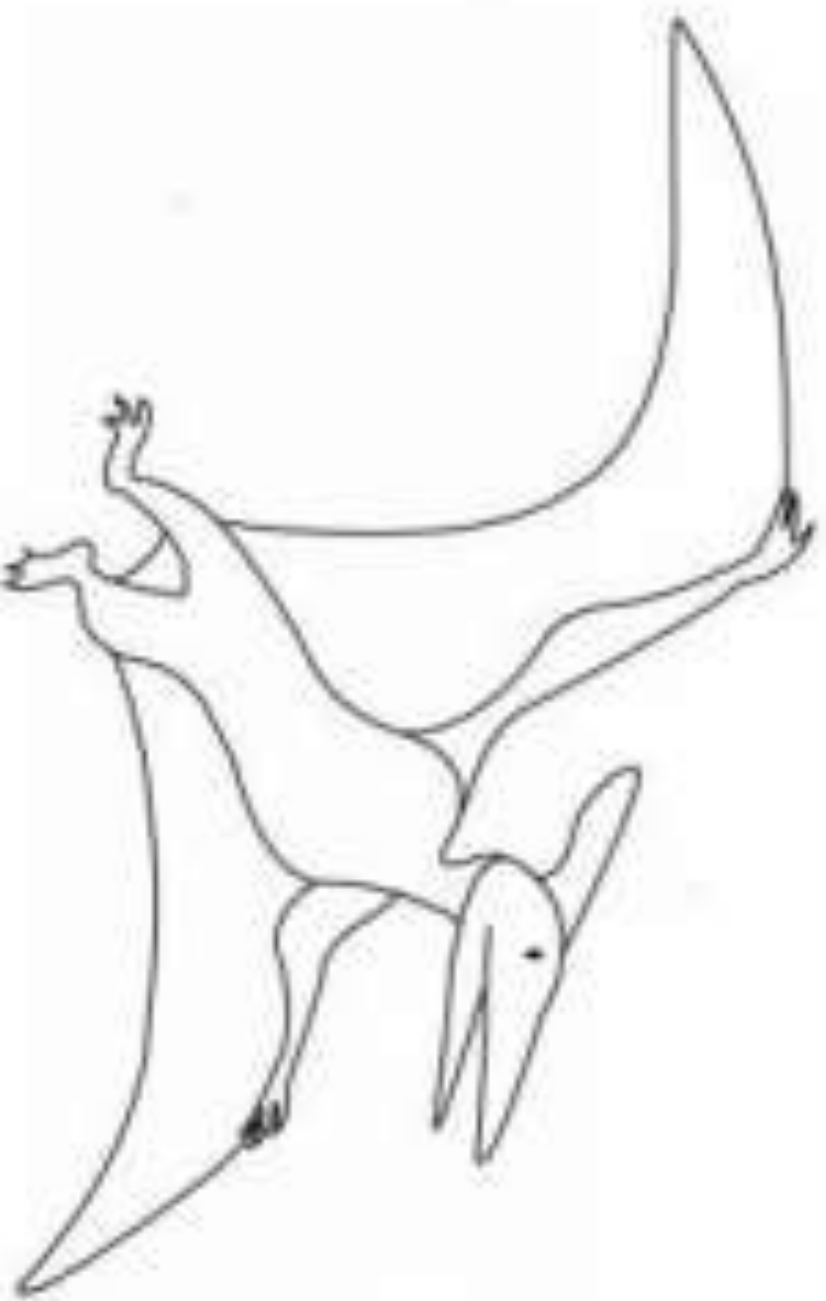
Can you complete the picture of the pteranodon by copying the missing parts from the picture below?



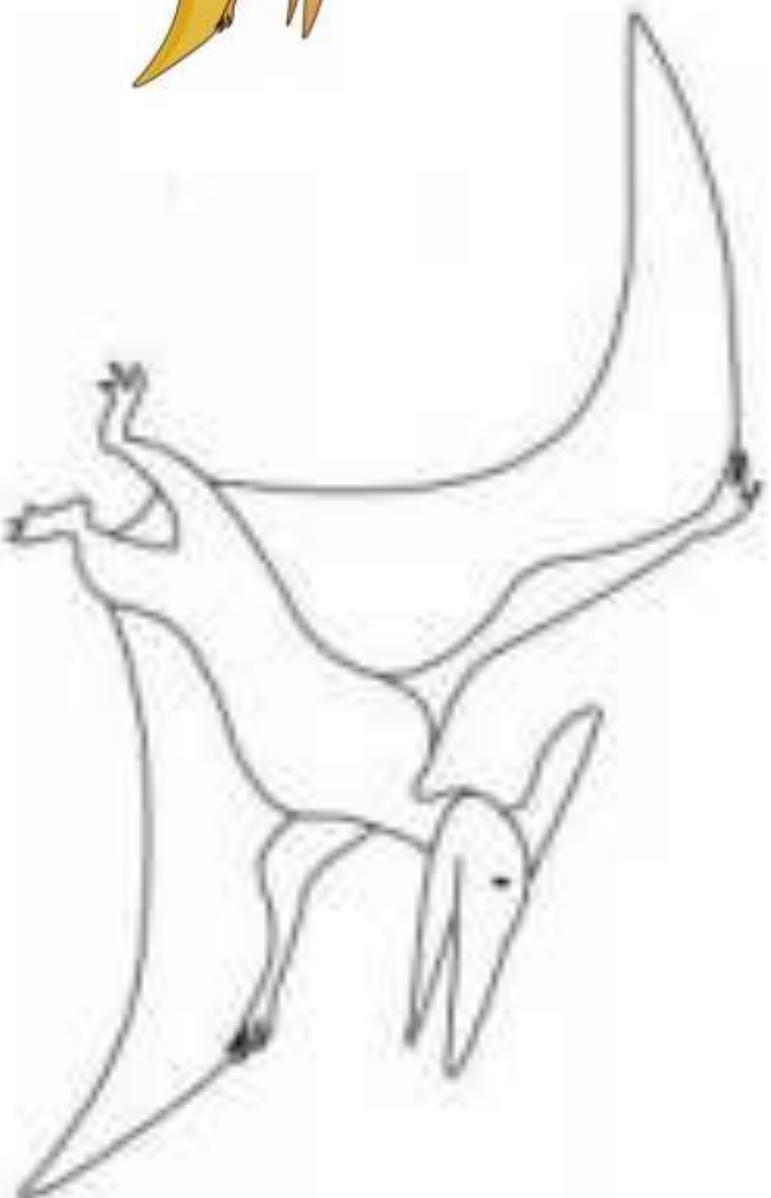
Learn to Draw a Pteranodon



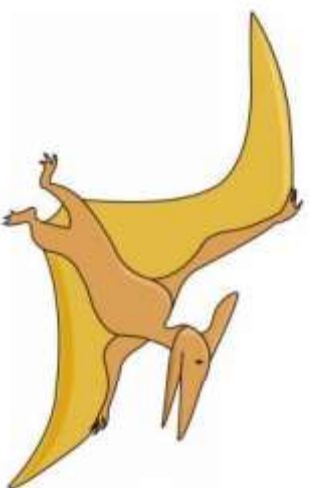
Pteranodon



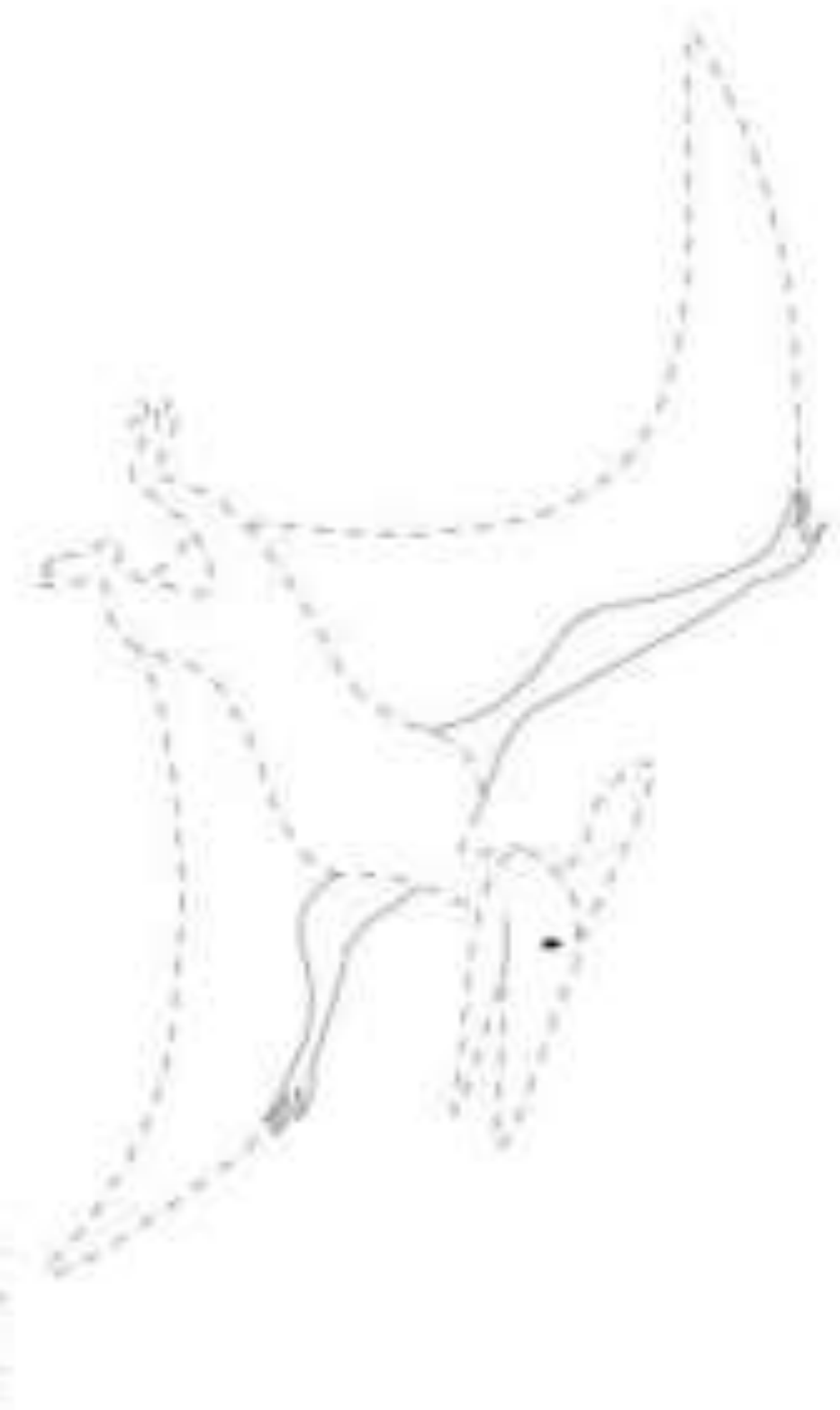
pteranodon



Pteranodon



Trace the Pteranodon



Preparation

