

Name: _____

Pteranodon

By Guy Belleranti



Pteranodons were giant reptiles that flew through the skies over 75 million years ago. That was in the Late Cretaceous period.

The Pteranodon had big wings. When spread out the wings were bigger than a T. rex was tall. That's over 20 feet. Some Pteranodon wingspans reached 30 feet. The Pteranodon wasn't a bird. Even though it lived when dinosaurs did, it wasn't a dinosaur either. Instead it was a flying reptile (or pterosaur).

Pteranodon had hollow and lightweight bones. It also had a tiny tail and a giant head. The head had big eyes that gave Pteranodon good eyesight. The head also had a big crest. The crest was largest on male Pteranodons. The big head and big wings made up most of Pteranodon's body.

Pteranodon was a meat-eater, but it had no teeth. Pteranodon used its long, pointed beak to eat. It scooped up fish in its beak. It also ate crabs and squid. Also, it probably ate dead animals, just like vultures do today.

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1. Pteranodons were ...
 - a. large birds that could fly.
 - b. large reptiles that could fly.
 - c. large plant-eating dinosaurs that could fly.
 - d. large dinosaurs that could not fly.

2. Pteranodons lived during the _____ period.

3. Pteranodons had lightweight and hollow bones. How do you think this helped the Pteranodon?

4. According to the article, what four things did Pteranodons probably eat?

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Draw straight lines to match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1. hollow | • | • not heavy |
| 2. squid | • | • bone, hair, or feathers on an animal's head |
| 3. vultures | • | • mouth of a bird; a bill |
| 4. lightweight | • | • sea animals with tentacles |
| 5. crest | • | • having nothing inside |
| 6. beak | • | • birds that eat dead animals |

ANSWER KEY

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1. Pteranodons were ...
 - a. large birds that could fly.
 - b. large reptiles that could fly.**
 - c. large plant-eating dinosaurs that could fly.
 - d. large dinosaurs that could not fly.

2. Pteranodons lived during the Late Cretaceous period.

3. Pteranodons had lightweight and hollow bones. How do you think this helped the Pteranodon?

Hollow bones weighed less. This made it easier for the Pteranodon to fly.

4. According to the article, what four things did Pteranodons probably eat?

fish, crabs, squid, and dead animals

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