



0. PTERANODON - Story Preface

1. EARLY DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

2. THE JURASSIC PERIOD

3. JURASSIC-ERA DINOSAURS

4. FOSSILIZED AMBER

5. THE SOLNHOFEN LIMESTONE

6. TYRANNOSAURUS REX

7. T-REX - SUE

8. PTERANODON

9. TRICERATOPS

10. VELOCIRAPTOR

11. SPINOSAURUS

12. DINOSAUR TRACKS AND DISPUTES

13. NEW DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

14. JURASSIC WORLD and INDOMINUS REX

In this artist's conception, by Nobumichi Tamura, we see a Cretaceous-era flying reptile known as a *Pteranodon*. Online via Wikimedia Commons; License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#).

Pteranodon - one of the great flying reptiles from the Cretaceous (not Jurassic) Period - was a member of the Pterodactyl family. The name "*Pteranodon*" means "Wing without Tooth." It also didn't have much of a tail.

Distinguished by a large crown at the back of its head and a huge jaw at the front, the *Pteranodon* was NOT a dinosaur. It had an incredible wing span (scientists estimate between 23-30 feet), ate fish and lived near the sea shore. Paleontologists believe it had body fur similar to a bat's.

When the first *Pteranodon* was discovered in America (they have been found in Kansas and Wyoming), it created quite a sensation. It was much larger than its European counterpart.

Although thousands of *Pteranodon* fossils exist, paleontologists have located only one nearly complete skeleton.

Since they could not walk well on land, these "air dragons" likely watched for prey high up in the trees. When they spotted what they wanted, they would swoop down to catch it. They could also have watched for prey on the surface of the water (as researchers learned when they found the tooth of a shark in a fossilized *Pteranodon's* spine).

During June of 1996, Mike and Pam Everhart found a fossilized young male *Pteranodon* in Kansas. Follow the links to learn about this important discovery and the meticulous process required to carefully retrieve and clean the *Pteranodon's* skull.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PTERANODON-Jurassic-Park>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PTERANODON-Jurassic-Park>



Pteranodon - Drawing

Drawing of Pteranodon by Mike Everhart. Copyright, Mike Everhart, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new readers with Everhart's archeological finds. Online via [Oceans of Kansas](#).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pteranodon-Drawing>



Pteranodon - Reconstructed Image

Image, described above, online courtesy Oceans of Kansas.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pteranodon-Reconstructed-Image>

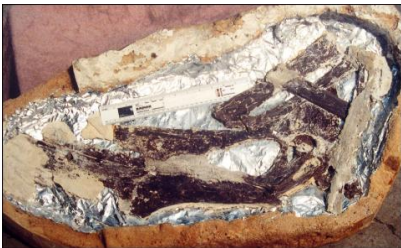


Pteranodon - In-situ Remains

Image online, courtesy Mike Everhart.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pteranodon-In-situ-Remains>



Pteranodon Fossil

Image by Mike Everhart, described above. Copyright, Mike Everhart, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new readers with the Everharts' work. Online via [Oceans of Kansas](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pteranodon-Fossil>



PTERANODON

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/PTERANODON>