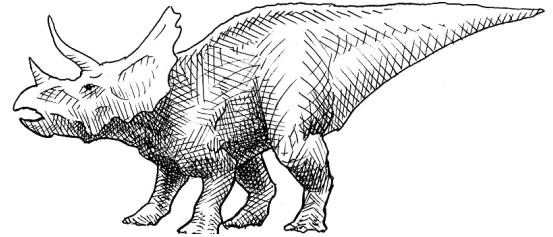
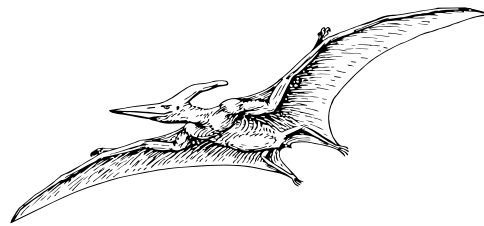


# *Dinosaur fossils are among the most exciting fossils to find, but what exactly is a dinosaur?*

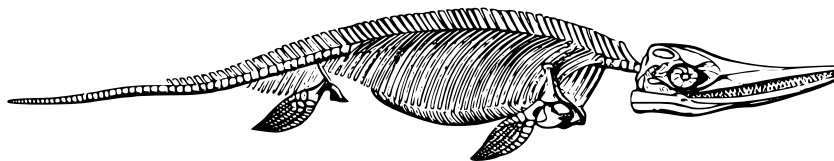


A **dinosaur** is a prehistoric reptile that lived on the Earth about 228 million years ago! The term "*dinosaur*" translates to "*terrible lizard*" in Greek, but they aren't actually lizards at all. Dinosaurs were non-flying and non-swimming prehistoric reptiles; they only walked on land. Meat-eaters walked on two legs and hunted alone or in packs, while plant-eaters walked on two legs or all four and grazed in groups. Some dinosaurs were the size of a chicken, while others were 120 feet long! The one thing all dinosaurs have in common is a hole in their hip socket (where our leg bones attach to our hips) that allowed them to walk upright, unlike all other reptiles.



Prehistoric reptiles that could fly were known as **Pterosaurs**, which means "*winged lizard*."

Prehistoric reptiles that lived in the water were known as **Plesiosaurs**, which means "*nearly lizard*."



While it still remains a mystery what exactly dinosaurs looked like on the outside, thanks to fossilization of their skeletons, we have a pretty good idea of what they may have looked like and how they lived!

## *Can you name any dinosaurs?*