

MUSEUM

Signals
Activities

Kids

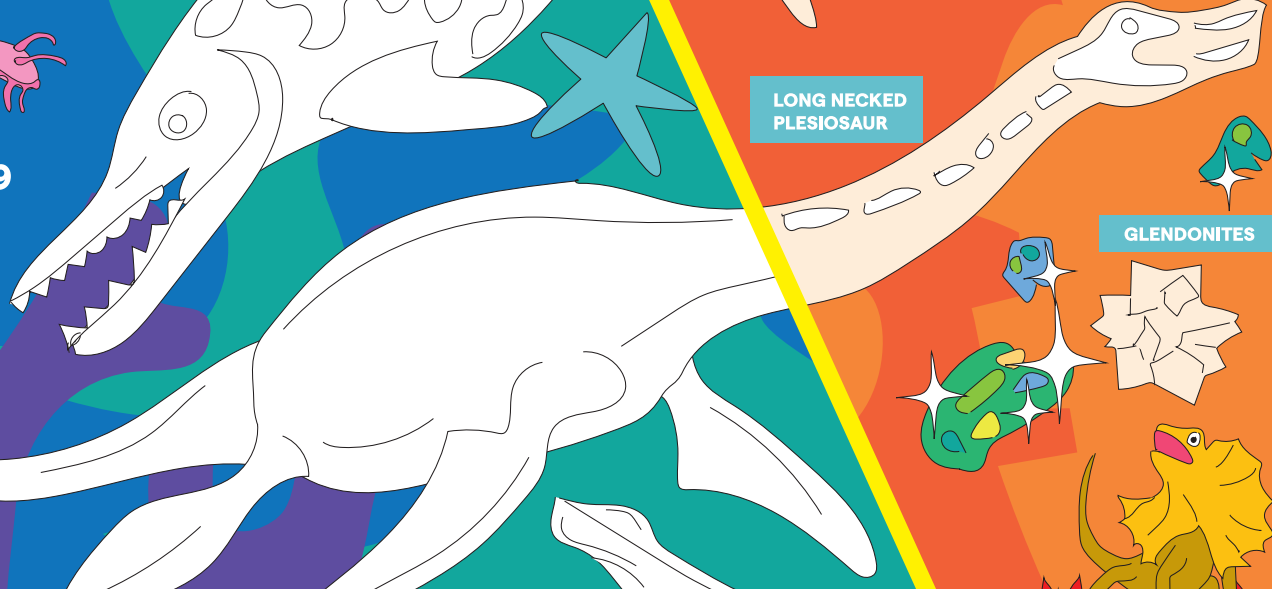
Spring 2019



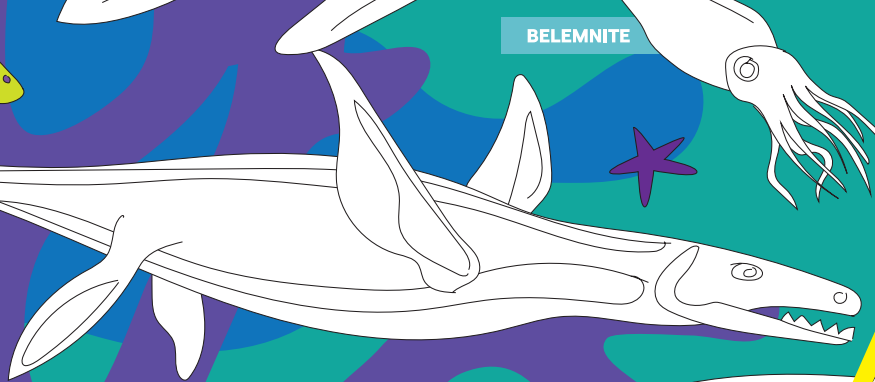
ICHTHYOSAUR



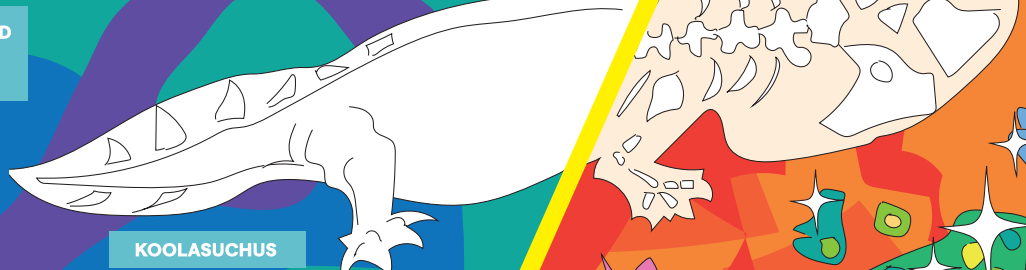
LONG NECKED PLESIOSAUR



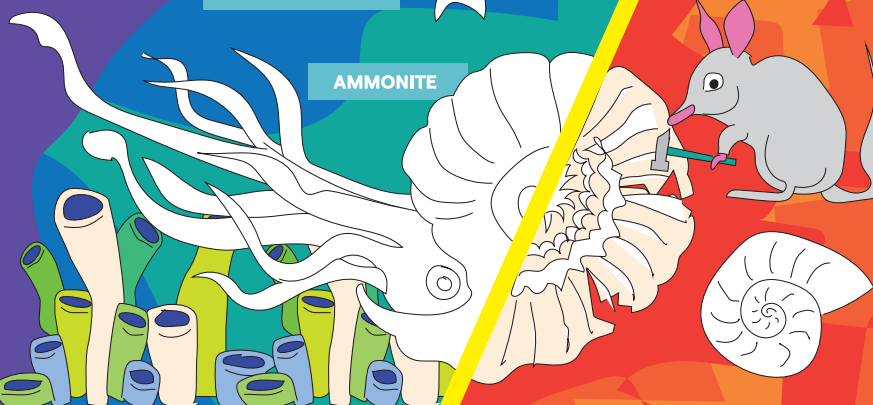
BELEMNITE



SHORT NECKED PLESIOSAUR (PLIOSAUR)



KOOLASUCHUS



AMMONITE

GLENDONITES



Prehistoric Aquatic

Let's take a journey back in time.

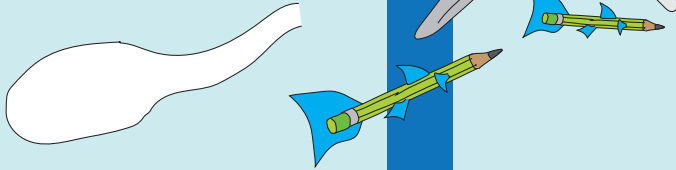
Hundreds of millions of years ago, our oceans were home to some fascinating, fantastic and ferocious marine life. While dinosaurs roamed the land, there were also humungous reptiles who hunted in the sea – ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and mosasaurs. Let's take a look around Australia's ancient inland ocean, the Eromanga Sea, and colour in some things you might find there...

The Eromanga Sea stretched way across Australia's inland deserts during the Cretaceous period. It eventually dried up and was replaced by rainforests. Some of the fossils found here are very beautiful because they have turned into opals.

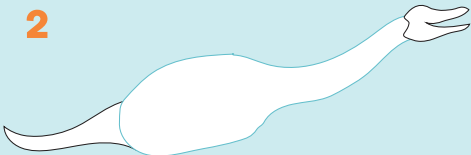
How to draw a long-necked plesiosaur

Follow these simple steps

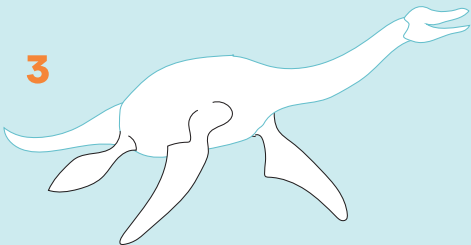
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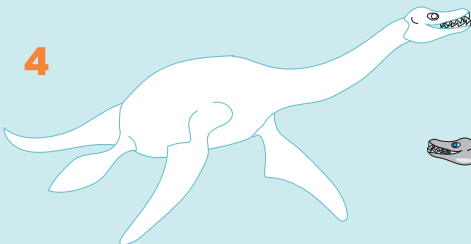
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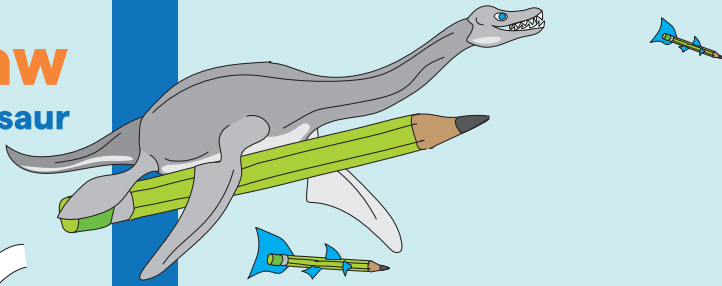
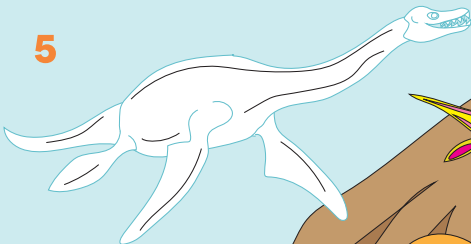
3



4



5



FISH FOR FOSSILS

Here is a map of the Eromanga sea.

Can you trace the shape of current day Australia here?

Can you spot the hidden fossils there? How many did you find?



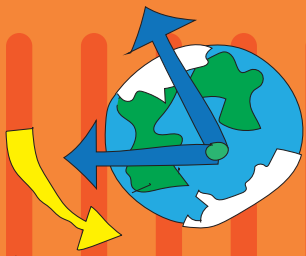
WHAT'S A PALAEOLOGIST?

(Say it - pay-lee-on-to-l-o-jist)

They are people who look for and study the fossils of ancient creatures.

FAMOUS KID-PALAEOLOGISTS

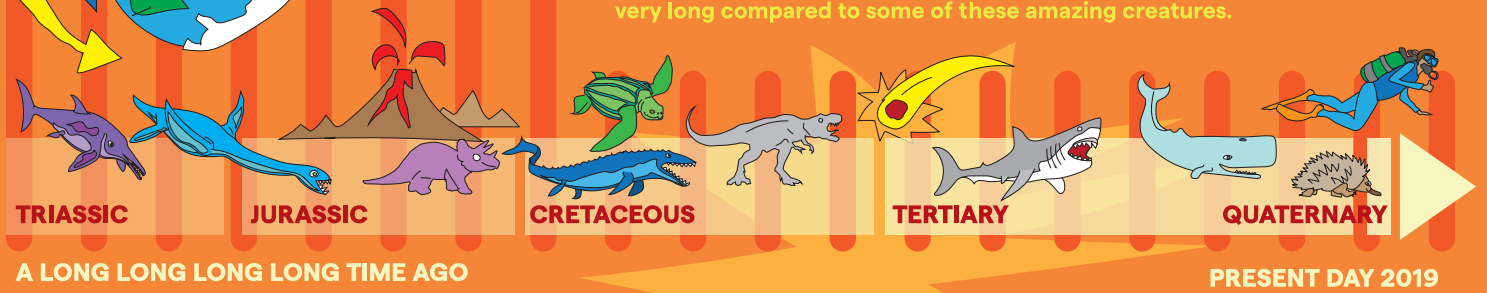
Mary Anning was only 12 years old when she and her brother found the first ever complete fossil of an ichthyosaur in 1811 in England. She also found two of the very first near-complete fossils of Plesiosaurs. You're never too young to make a world-changing discovery!



WHERE IN TIME?

These marine reptiles lived hundreds of millions of years ago – in the 'Mesozoic era', which includes the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. This is also known as the 'Age of reptiles'.

Can you see humans on the timeline below? We haven't been around for very long compared to some of these amazing creatures.



Who am I?

Can you match these prehistoric marine reptiles to their description?



?

- I ranged in size from 1.5 metres up to 15 metres long.
- Some of my kind had short necks, others had long.
- My superpower is swimming in a flying motion using all four flippers.
- I had one baby at a time.
- I'm a social creature. I like to hang out with my others of my kind.

?

- My name literally means Fish Lizard.
- I look a little bit like a dolphin.
- I had enormous eyeballs, as big as dinner plates.
- I can have up to 11 babies at once.

?

- My body looks like a goanna. I have a forked tongue and a long snout.
- I ate everything! I was hands down the fiercest predator in the ocean.
- My superpower is my humungous strong jaw that can open really wide.
- My only fear is meeting a bigger one of my species.
- I am about 10 m long.

?

- My bite had three tons of crushing power.
- I'm a famous short-necked Australian Plesiosaur.
- I look a bit like a crocodile.

I am a

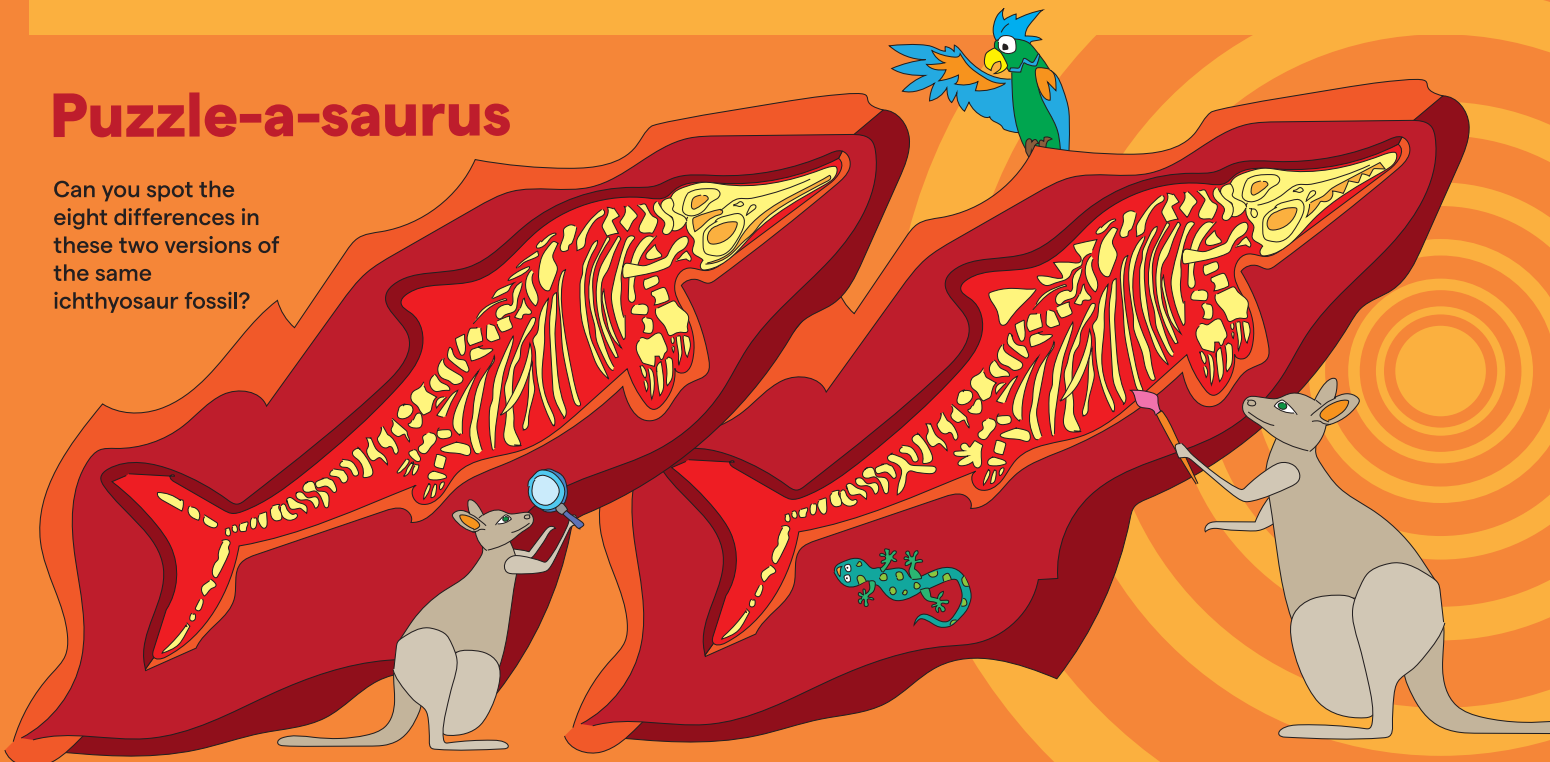
I am an

I am a

I am a

Puzzle-a-saurus

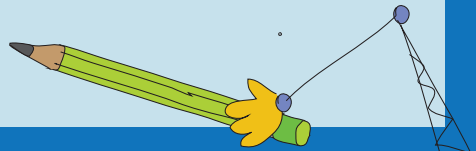
Can you spot the eight differences in these two versions of the same ichthyosaur fossil?



Invent your own

Prehistoric Predator

Imagine you are designing your own sea monster
Draw or write about your animal here.



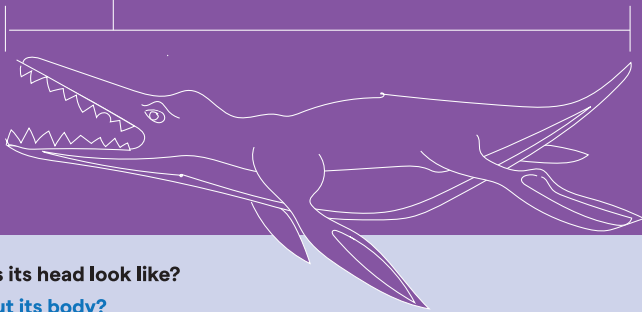
My prehistoric predator's name is

Height

Top Speed

Length

Appearance



What does its head look like?

What about its body?

Does it have a tail?

Does it have teeth?

Does it have wings, legs or flippers?

How would it stay protected or safe in its environment?

Does it have any camouflage or protective covering?

NAME YOUR SEA-SAUR

ACANTHO - spiny

ANATO - duck

BRONTO - thunder

BRACHY - short

BELLU - beautiful

CARNO - flesh

CRYPTO - hidden

CARDIO - heart

DRACO - dragon

DEINO - fearfully great

ECHINO - prickly

ELASMO - elastic

ICTHYO - fish

GIGA - savage giant

HYDRO - water

MACRO - large

MICRO - small

REX - king

ONYX - claws

NANO - very small

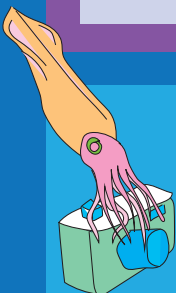
MEGA - huge

MORPH - shape

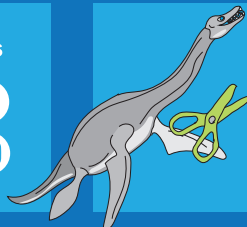
VELOCI - speedy

TOPS - face

ZYGO - joined



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