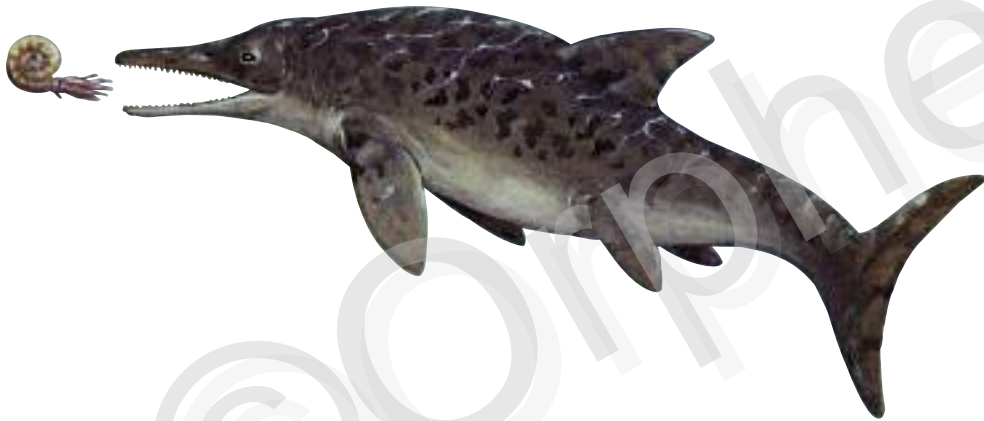


Contents

Where did pterosaurs fly?	6
What did the first bird look like?	16
Which reptiles lived under the sea?	18
What happened to the marine reptiles?	28



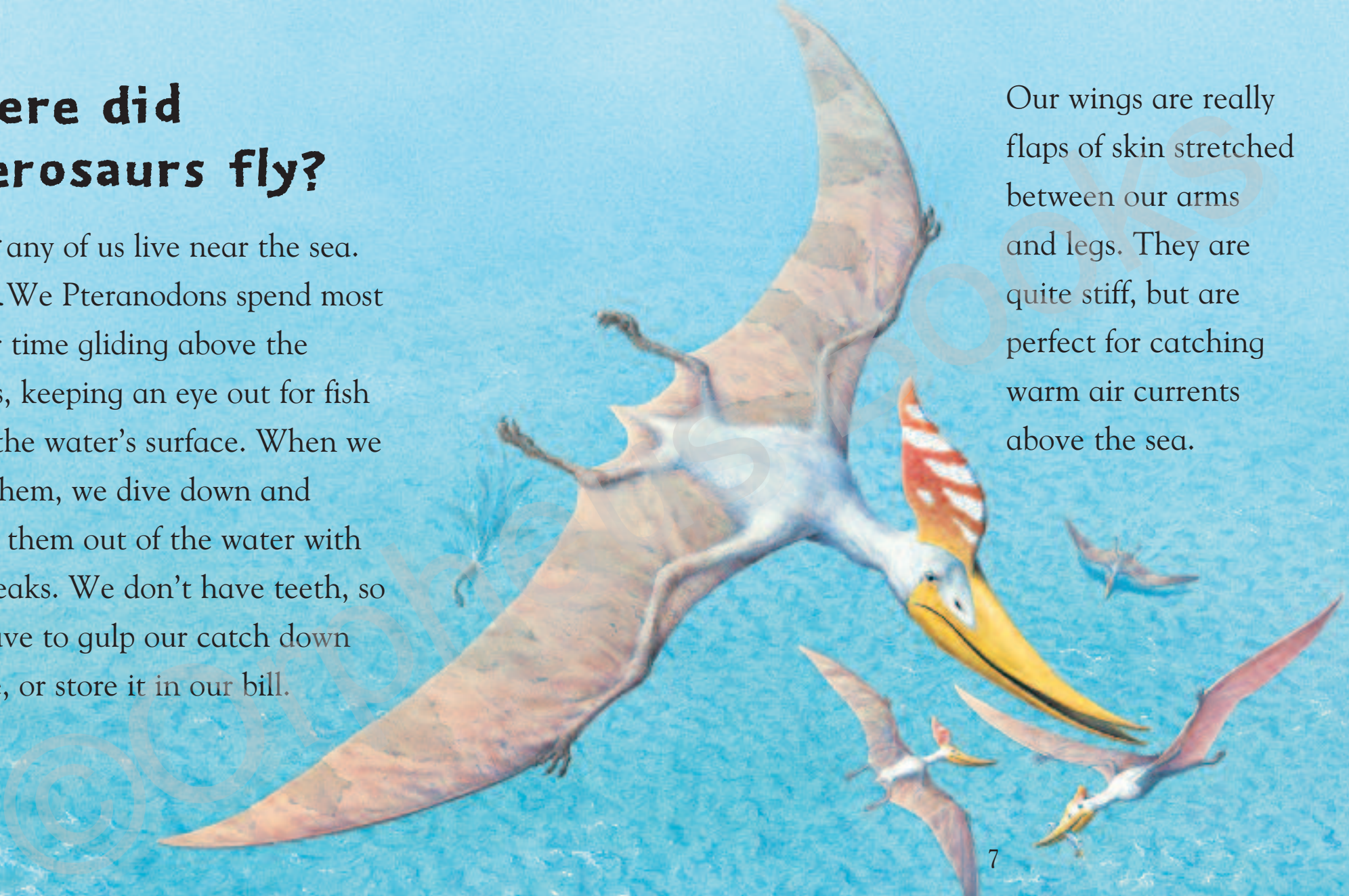
Pterosaurs and marine reptiles

We reptiles once ruled the Earth. Many millions of years before you humans first appeared, reptiles were kings of the land, seas and skies. Here you can find about about those of us who swooped in the air or swam in the oceans (definitely *not* dinosaurs).

Where did pterosaurs fly?

Many of us live near the sea. We Pteranodons spend most of our time gliding above the waves, keeping an eye out for fish near the water's surface. When we spot them, we dive down and scoop them out of the water with our beaks. We don't have teeth, so we have to gulp our catch down whole, or store it in our bill.

Our wings are really flaps of skin stretched between our arms and legs. They are quite stiff, but are perfect for catching warm air currents above the sea.





What did the first bird look like?

Pterosaurs weren't the only flying creatures around in the Age of Dinosaurs. Did you know we birds first took to the air at this time? In fact, the dinosaurs were our ancestors.

Quite a few dinosaurs had feathers. Some tiny ones would go running and jumping after insects. It was only a short step to taking to the air! I'm Archaeopteryx, one of the first birds. I still have teeth, claws and a long, dinosaur-like tail. Confuciosornis still has claws, but has a fancy, two-pronged tail.

