

PTERANODON: THE LIFE STORY OF A PTEROSAUR

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 3-5

Submitted by Melanie Guillory, Graduate Student, LSU School of Library & Information Science (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Penny Nickerson, Student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

Pteranodon: The Life Story of a Pterosaur by Ruth Ashby. Illustrated by Phil Wilson. Harry Abrams, 2005. 32 pages.

Summary

This book tells the story of a young Pteranodon from its birth until it finds a mate. It describes the Pteranodon's first flight, first hunt, and dangerous encounters with raptors and a T. Rex. The book includes a glossary, a bibliography, research notes and a map of the Late Cretaceous Period. The colorful full-page illustrations enhance the drama of the Pteranodon's life.

Awards and "Best Book" Lists

2005 National Parenting Publication Honor Award (NAPPA)

Author's Biography

Ruth Ashby is a Professor of English at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York. She received her BA in 1974 from Yale University and her MA in 1976 from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She has written a number of science books and biographies for children. She lives in Huntington, New York.

Other Books by Ruth Ashby

The Amazing Mr. Franklin: Or the Boy Who Read Everything
Ronald & Nancy Reagan (Presidents and First Ladies)
My Favorite Dinosaurs
How the Solar System Was Formed
The Earth and Its Moon
T-Rex Back to the Cretaceous

Illustrator's Biography

Phil Wilson lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has provided illustrations for numerous children's books as well as posters, book covers, and even a dinosaur-based Monopoly game. Wilson has also contributed to a range of journals, including *National Geographic* and *Wild Outdoor World Magazine*. He has also co-owned and operated an animation studio that produced specials for music videos, television and feature films. In his spare time, he enjoys science fiction, photography, and model-building.

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0GDX/is_4_74/ai_58915140

Other Titles Illustrated by Phil Wilson

Beyond the Dinosaurs by Charlotte Lewis Brown.
The Day the Dinosaurs Died by Charlotte Lewis Brown.
After the Dinosaurs by Charlotte Lewis Brown.

Related Titles

Pterosaurs: Rulers of the Skies in the Dinosaur Age by Caroline Arnold.
Encyclopedia Prehistorica Dinosaurs: The Definitive Pop-Up by Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart.
A Dinosaur Named Sue by Pat Relf.
Digging for Bird Dinosaurs by Cathy Forster.

Searching For Velociraptor by Lowell Dingus and Mark Norell.

Classroom Connections

- Divide the class into groups and assign a particular dinosaur to each group. Have the groups research that dinosaur and make a PowerPoint presentation to share the information with other classmates.
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/dinos/Pteranodon> Using the web site, create a Kidspiration Web about the Pteranodon. It must include the following:
 - 2 facts about the anatomy
 - 2 facts about classification
 - The time when the Pteranodon lived
 - What the Pteranodon ate
 - 2 places where Pteranodon fossils were found
- Students can make a collage of pictures of dinosaurs on a poster board and display it in the class.
- Invite someone to read aloud a book about dinosaurs.
- Have students answer the following questions using the Wikipedia Encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pterosaur>
 - What does Pterosaur mean?
 - Did the Pterosaur fly or glide? State facts to prove your answer.
 - Are Pterosaurs warm-blooded or cold-blooded? State facts to prove your answer.
- Lesson ideas were adapted from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory <http://www.sedl.org/scimath/pasopartners/dinosaurs/welcome.html>
 - Math: Have the children vote for their favorite dinosaur and graph the results. Hypothesize the size of a dinosaur using paper chains and then measure themselves. Use shapes such as squares, circles, triangles, etc. to create a dinosaur picture.
 - Art: Research dinosaurs and have the class create a mural.
 - Writing: Have the students read stories about dinosaurs. Write about their lives and how they became extinct. Have the students create a list of words to describe dinosaurs.
 - Science: Have the students study five types of dinosaurs and discuss if the dinosaur could fly, swim, or live on land. Draw the life cycle of a dinosaur.

Web Sites

A to Z Teacher Stuff

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Dinosaurs/index.shtml>

This website contains a broad range of lesson plans about dinosaurs. This site is very easy to navigate.

Lesson Plan: Those Fussy Dinosaurs

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/04/gk2/dinosaurs.html>

Lesson Plan on dinosaurs that connects to the National Geography Standards.

The Horn Book: Prehistoric Life

<http://www.hbook.com/booklists/prehistoric.asp>

List of recommended titles.

Britannica Presents Discovering Dinosaurs

http://search.eb.com/dinosaurs/dinosaurs/study/dino_roots.htm

Meanings of dinosaur names.