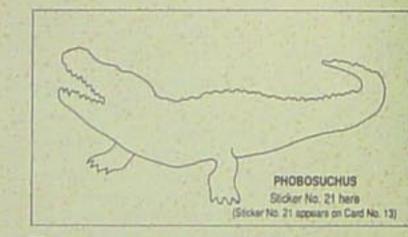


MOSASURUS (Mows-ah-saw-rus)

Many of these creatures grew to be as large as whales. They had four paddle-shaped legs and a long flat tail which swished from side to side to enable them to move quickly under water.

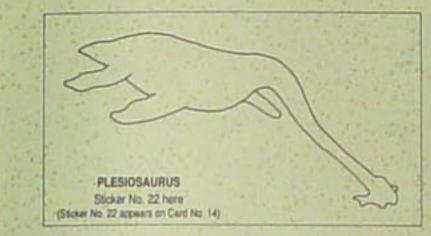


PHOBOSUCHUS (Fow-bow-such-us)

This fearsome predator grew to four times the size of today's crocodiles. Its huge jaws were as long as a standard station wagon.

ICHTHYOSAURUS (Ick-thee-owe-saw-rus)

These dolphin-like creatures were superbly adapted for life in the sea. Their powerful tails enabled them to swim quickly whilst steering with their flippers. The name Ichthyosaurus means 'fish lizard'. They differed from most other reptiles as they didn't lay eggs. The mother kept the eggs in her body until they were ready to hatch and then gave birth to live young.



PLESIOSAURUS (Plea-see-owe-saw-rus)

There were many different kinds of Plesiosaurus but they all looked quite similar. They had a broad body and flippers, a short tail and a very long neck. It is thought that they swam on the surface and darted their heads under water to catch fish.

Although they were quite agile, they weren't very fast swimmers.

METRIORHYNCHUS

(Met-ree-ore-ring-cus)

With a smooth, streamlined body, strong, muscular tail and four paddle-like fins, this crocodile-like creature was well adapted for swimming. Metriorhynchus grew to about 2.5 metres long and lived about 160 million years ago.





ELASMOSAURUS (Ell-as-mow-saw-rus)

This large creature fived in the shallow seas that covered part of North America 80 million years ago. It was not a true dinosaur (they all fived on land) but belonged to another group of reptiles. It had a small head with long sharp teeth and a very long neck that could move quickly in almost any direction. It are fish and it is thought that it may also have caught low-flying Pterodactyls.