

Name: _____

Velociraptor

By Guy Belleranti

The Velociraptor lived in the late Cretaceous period. That was about 75 million years ago.



It had sharp teeth because it was a meat-eating dinosaur. The Velociraptor wasn't very big. It was only six feet long from nose to tail

tip. It was only as tall as a turkey, which was smaller than most dinosaurs.

The Velociraptor had a three-inch long, curved claw on each foot. It could use these claws to kill other dinosaurs. It also could pull these claws in when running. It had claws on its hands too, but these claws were smaller.

The Velociraptor had a big brain for its size. It was one of the smartest dinosaurs.

Velociraptors may have hunted in groups. It also probably ate animals killed and left behind by larger dinosaurs.

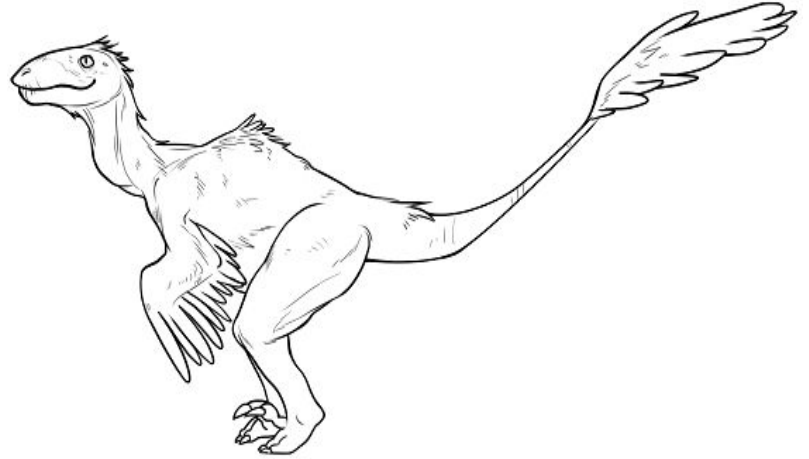
Scientists used to think Velociraptors were covered with scales, like a lizard. Today, most scientists think Velociraptors had feathers instead.

The Velociraptor ran fast on its two hind legs. It had a stiff tail that gave it balance when it ran. Even though it had feathers like a bird, it could not fly.

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1. The Velociraptor was about as tall as...

- a. a horse
- b. an elephant
- c. a pig
- d. a hamster

2. Was the Velociraptor a meat-eater or a plant-eater? _____

3. The Velociraptor used its sharp claws...

- a. to run faster
- b. to attack other dinosaurs
- c. to jump high in the air
- d. dig for food in the ground

4. Scientists used to think Velociraptors were covered with _____.

5. Today, most scientists believe Velociraptors were covered with _____.

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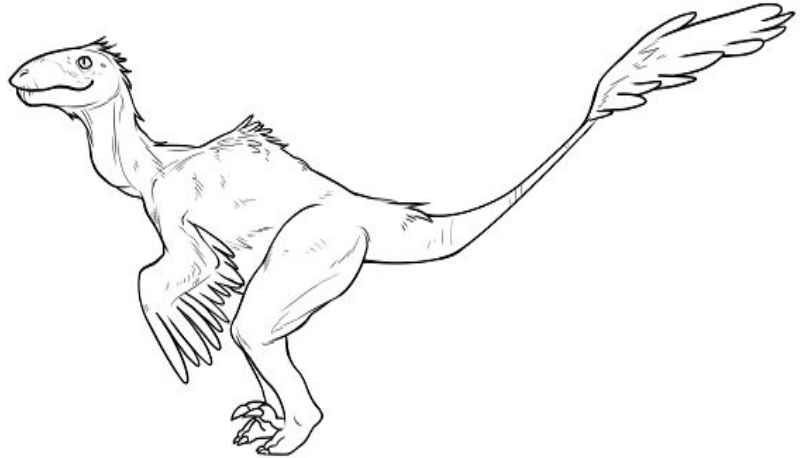
Draw straight lines to match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---|--|
| 1. | claw | • | • pointed end |
| 2. | lizard | • | • brightest |
| 3. | feathers | • | • to keep something from falling |
| 4. | balance | • | • sharp, curved nail |
| 5. | tip | • | • soft covering on a bird's body |
| 6. | smartest | • | • four-legged animal covered with scales |

ANSWER KEY

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