



The Art of Sea Monsters

Virtual Field Trip Drawing Directions

What you need:

- 3 pieces of 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape
- Crayons or markers

What you'll do:

Paper #1:

1. Fold the paper into thirds, like a letter.
2. On the bottom of each third (section), write "15 feet."
3. **Section 1 (top third) - Shark:**

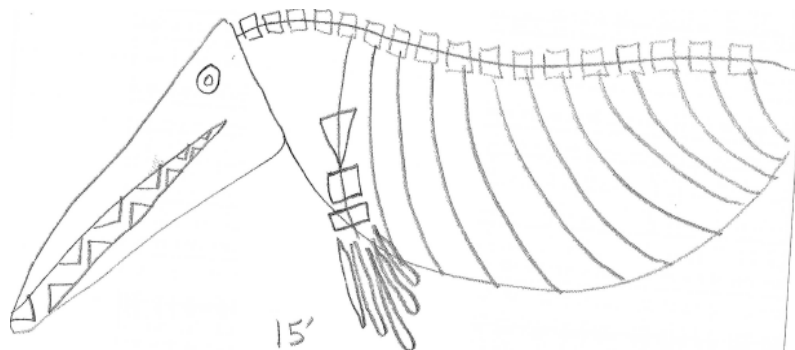
- Draw a shark with a long, round body and a triangle tail. Fill the space with your shark.
- Look closely at the fossil shark teeth. Give your shark sharp teeth.
- Label your drawing: Shark 15 feet

4. **Section 2 (bottom third) - Mosasaur head & body:**

- Look at the mosasaur's head.
 - It looks like a long skinny triangle. On one end of your section, draw your long skinny triangle with the point towards the edge of the paper. Make the triangle about the length of your middle finger and the width of two fingers.
- Look at the mosasaur's teeth.
 - Draw a long skinny triangle within your triangle head to create a mouth.
 - Draw a set of mosasaur teeth in your triangle.
 - Draw in a circular eye socket.
- Look at the mosasaur's neck and backbone.
 - Draw one line from the top of his head to the right edge of the paper.
 - Along that line, draw 17 small squares. These are the mosasaur's vertebrae, or backbone.
 - Draw a curved line (like a smile) from bottom of the head to the right side of the paper.
 - On the fifth square back from the head, draw a line to connect the square to your bottom curved line. Moving toward the right, continue connecting the squares to the curved line. You will connect 13 in all.

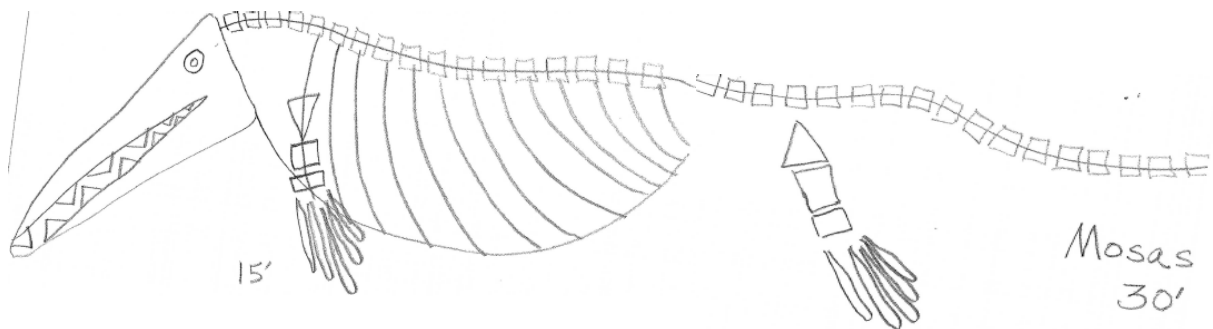


You are making ribs!



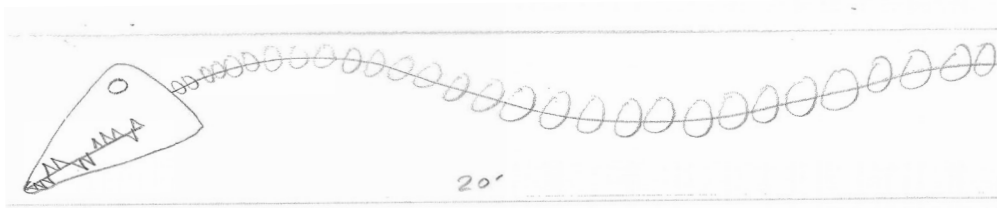


- Look at the mosasaur's paddle.
 - On your first rib, halfway down, draw a triangle pointed down.
 - Under your triangle, draw a rectangle.
 - Under the rectangle, draw a square.
 - Under the square, draw 5 long skinny finger-like bones.
5. Section 3 (middle third) - Mosasaur body, paddles and tail:
- Look at the mosasaur's long, curvy body.
 - At the top of the section, draw a curvy line from one side to the other.
 - Along this line draw a parade of small vertebrae squares. The backbone continues!
 - Now for another paddle.
 - Three fingers from the left side of your paper, draw a triangle pointed up, with the tip almost touching one of your vertebrae squares.
 - Under the triangle draw a rectangle.
 - Under the rectangle draw a square.
 - Under the square draw 5 long, skinny, finger-like bones.
6. Cut along the folded line between your two mosasaur sections. Tape them together, lining up the backbone, to make one long body. Each section represents 15 feet. You now have a 30-foot-long mosasaur!
7. Label your drawing: Mosasaur, 30 feet.



Paper #2:

1. Turn the paper sideways (landscape mode) and fold it into long, thin thirds.
2. On the bottom of TOP third (section), write "20 feet."
3. **Section 1 (top third) - Plesiosaur head & neck:**
 - Look at the plesiosaur's head.
 - On the left side of paper, draw a triangle pointed towards the left edge of the paper, about 2-3 fingers wide.
 - Draw a line from the triangle point to the middle of the triangle for its mouth.
 - Add the plesiosaur's very distinct looking teeth along that line.
 - Draw in the circular eye socket.
 - Look at the Plesiosaur's neck.
 - Starting from the middle of the triangle, draw a curved line to the right edge of the paper.
 - Draw circles along the line. They should get progressively larger, but not as wide as the paper. You are drawing the plesiosaur's neck bones, or vertebrae.



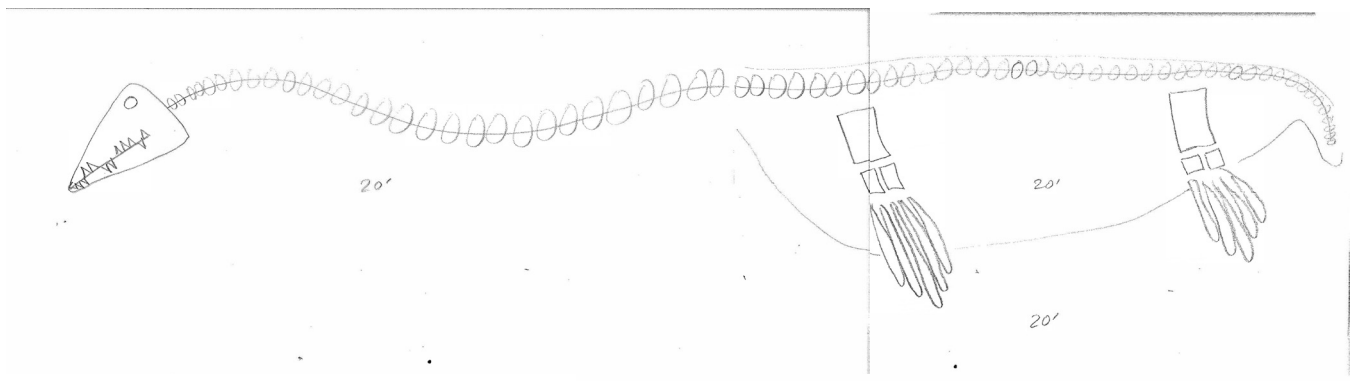
4. Section 2 (middle third) – Plesiosaur backbone:

- Draw a curved line from the left side of the paper to the right. When you reach the right side, curve your line down like a tail.
- Along the line draw circles. They should get smaller towards the right side of the paper. You just drew the plesiosaur's backbone!

5. Section 3 (bottom two-thirds) – Plesiosaur paddle and belly:

- Open up the bottom fold on your paper, , You now have a large drawing space under your backbone.
- Look at the plesiosaur's front paddle.
 - One hand width in from the left under the circles, draw a good-sized rectangle.
 - Under the rectangle draw 2 squares next to each other.
 - Under the squares draw 5 long skinny finger bones. You have drawn one paddle!
 - Draw a second paddle about 4 fingers in from the right side of the paper.
- A plesiosaur had a belly! Give your plesiosaur a tear-shaped body.
 - From left to right, draw a line above your backbone.
 - From left to right, start a second line at the bottom of the circle and draw a big smiley line, that connects with the top line at the tip of the tail.

6. Cut the top section with the head and neck off from your body drawing. Tape together the head and neck to the body section to make one long body, lining up the backbone. Each section represents 20 feet. You now have a 40-foot-long plesiosaur!



7. Label your drawing: Plesiosaur, 40 feet.

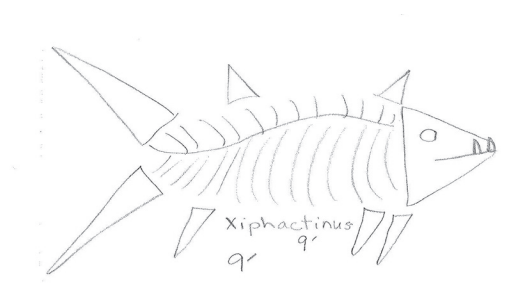
Paper #3:

1. Fold the paper into thirds, like a letter.
2. Cut off 1 1/2" from the right side – or about 3 fingers width.
3. Unfold the paper. On the bottom of each third, write "9 feet."
4. **Section 1 (top third) – Xiphactinus (Bulldog Tarpon):**

- Look at the Bulldog tarpon.
 - On the left side of your paper draw two skinny triangles. Each triangle should point toward the left corners, with the bottom points of the triangles touching.



- On the right side of the paper, draw a fat triangle with the point on the edge of the paper. The triangle should be about 2 fingers wide. This is the Bulldog Tarpon's head!
- Draw a curved line from the touching triangle base to the top corner of the fat triangle.
- On the top of the curved line, draw many short lines going up.
- On the bottom of the curved line, draw many medium lines going down.
- Add triangular fins - 2 on the bottom by the head, 1 on the bottom close to the tail, and 2 triangle fins on top.
- Look at the Bulldog Tarpon's great teeth. Add them to the tip of your head triangle.
- Add a circular eye socket.
- Label your drawing: Xiphactinus, Bulldog Tarpon, 9 feet.



5. The rest of your paper (middle and bottom thirds)

- All of your animals need to eat! Draw fish, clams, ammonites, and other marine creatures. Sea turtles were also swimming in the Western Interior Sea during this time. Draw a large sea turtle!

You may want to add skin and color to your drawings. Consider what colors many marine animals have today. Mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, and bulldog tarpons were all predators. They don't want to be seen. What colors do you think they would have been?

Cut out your drawings and tape them together to assemble your Mesozoic Western Interior Sea mural!

