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 it into thirds, like a letter.
2. On the bottom of each third (section), write “15 feet.”
3. Section 1 (top) - 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) - 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 circle eye socket.
   - Look at the mosasaur’s neck and backbone.
     - Draw one line from the top of his head to the end 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. 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) - 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 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 the along the folded line between your two mosasaur sections. Tape them together to make one long body. Each section represents 15 feet. You now have a 30-foot-long mosasaur! Label your drawing: Mosasaur, 30 feet.

Paper #2
1. Turn it sideways to “portrait” mode.
2. Fold it in to thirds, like a letter.
3. On the bottom of each third (section), write “20 feet.”
4. Section 1 (top) - Plesiosaur head & neck
• Look at the plesiosaur’s head.
  ▪ On the left side of paper, draw a triangle pointed towards the 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.
• Look at the Plesiosaur’s neck.
  ▪ Starting from the bottom, 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.
5. Section 2 (middle) - Backbone
   - Draw a curved line from the left side of the paper to the right side. On the right side have the curve end go down.
   - Along the line draw circles. They should get smaller as towards the right side of the paper. You just drew the plesiosaur’s backbone!

6. Section 3
   - Open up the bottom 1/3 section of your paper, so you now have a large drawing space under your backbone.
   - Look at the plesiosaur’s paddle.
     - One hand width in from the right, under the circles, draw a good size 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.

7. Cut the top section with the head and neck off from your body drawing. Tape them together to make one long body. Each section represents 20 feet. You now have a 40-foot-long plesiosaur! Label your drawing: Plesiosaur, 40 feet.

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Paper #3

1. Fold it in to thirds, like a letter.
2. Cut off 1 1/2” from the right side – or about 3 fingers width.
3. On the bottom of each third, write “9 feet.”
4. Section 1 (top) - 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 edges of the triangles touching. The triangles should be about 3 fingers long.
     - 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 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 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.

Label your drawing: Xiphactinus, Bulldog Tarpon, 9 feet

5. The rest of your paper
   - All 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 assemble your Mesozoic Western Interior Sea mural!