



Paper Plate Ichthyosaur

Background

Ichthyosaurs are an extinct group of aquatic (living in water) reptiles that lived in the Mesozoic Era (251 million to 65 million years ago). Though they look a lot like fish or dolphins, they're actually more closely related to lizards and snakes. Ichthyosaurs were fierce predators. They could use their streamlined bodies to move through the water at fast speeds, and had a mouth full of sharp teeth.

Materials

Tape
Scissors
Paper plate
Construction paper
Coloring supplies
Glue

Video tutorial available at ummnh.org/visitors/museumathome.

Instructions

1. Cut the body shape from a paper plate. Keep the rest of the plate for the next stages. Color the body.
2. Cut slits in the body and pull them together to make it 3D.
3. Cut another piece for the mouth and cut in half. Color the mouth.
4. Cut another for the dorsal (back) fin and attach. Color the fin.
5. Cut two fins from what's left of the plate and fix them on. Color the fins.
6. Then cut two smaller ones and attach those behind. Color the fins.
7. Draw around a coin and cut out a circle for the eye. Color the eye.
8. Make a cone from this circle by making a slit and pulling together and attaching.
9. Cut the rest of the plate up for teeth. Push them carefully into place.

