



# Crazy Creatures

## *Microraptor zhaoianus*

**Microraptor** was a small winged dinosaur from China that lived in the early Cretaceous period – 120 million years ago.

Microraptor was about 70cm long and weighed less than a kilogram – that's about the same size as a small cat! Microraptor had very unusual wings, unlike all birds today.

Time: 120 Million Years ago

Period: Cretaceous

***Four-winged bird***

**Your task 1: Draw Microraptor! It had:**

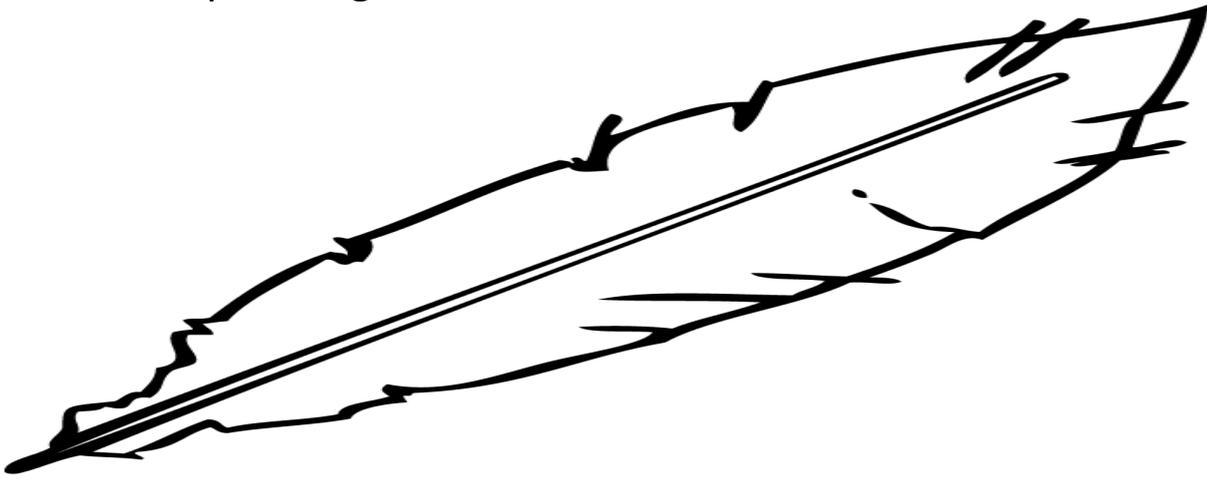
Wings on each arm and leg

A thin mouth filled with tiny sharp teeth

A very long feathery tail

Long, sharp claws on the feet

**Your task 2:** Fossils of Microraptor are sometimes preserved with patterns and colours. Think about birds alive today – colour in the feather with the colours you think Microraptor might have had!



[www.ClipProject.info](http://www.ClipProject.info)

## Creature Fact!

Microraptor was a Dinosaur, but is called a “Paravian” dinosaur because it is so close to birds!

**Your task 3:** Microraptor could fly for short bursts and glides, and could climb well using its long claws. What kind of environment did Microraptor live in?

**Your task 4:** Microraptor had 4 wings. All birds alive today only have two wings. Why do you think Microraptor had 4 wings? What could it have used the other wings for?

**Your task 5:** Microraptor is one of the most famous fossils from a very important fossil bed in China. Find out where, and name another two fossils found there!

**Your task 6:** Microraptor was a paravian dinosaur. That means “nearly a bird, but not quite”! Can you name four differences between Microraptor and birds alive today? You might need to do a bit of research for this!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Research key words:**

**Paravian**  
**Jiufotang Formation**  
**Velociraptor**

## CRAZYOMETER!

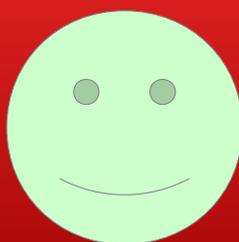
How weird do you think this creature was?



Boring!



Yeah Ok



A bit weird



Really weird!



Woah!



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