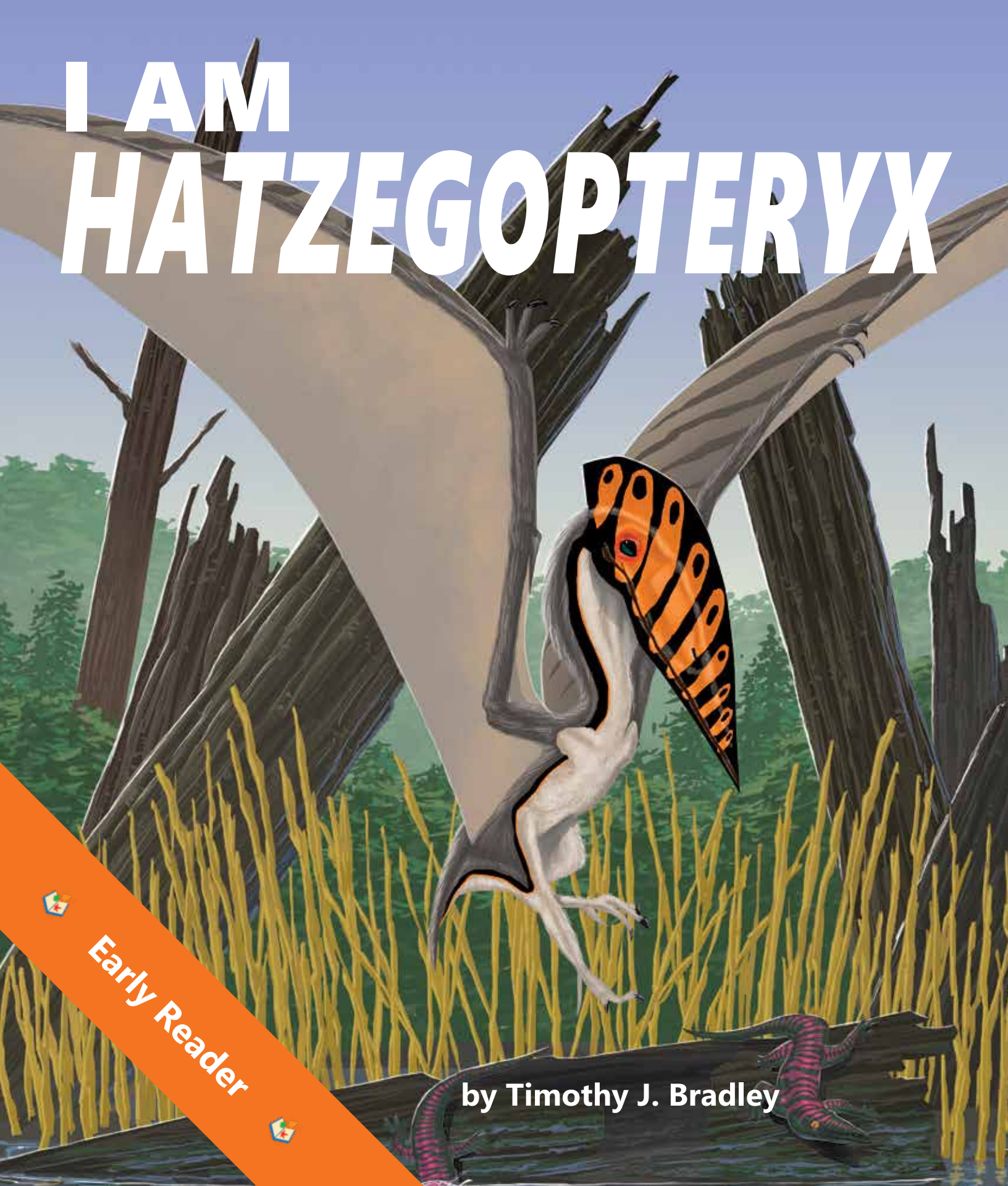


# I AM HATZEGOPTERYX



Early Reader



by Timothy J. Bradley

Can you imagine swooping through the air like *Hatzegopteryx*, a giant of the ancient skies? *Hatzegopteryx* (hatz-eh-GOP-ter-iks) was one of the largest pterosaurs that ever lived; about the size of a small airplane. *I am Hatzegopteryx*, the second book in Arbordale Publishing's *I am Prehistoric* series, gives children a glimpse into the life of the awesome *Hatzegopteryx*, from tiny chick to majestic-winged predator, and how it made its living. Unlike many pterosaurs, this one was a terrestrial carnivore, spending its time hunting prey on land. Just like today's animals, prehistoric creatures had adaptations and behaviors that helped them survive in their habitat—a environment that was in some ways quite different from what we see around us today.

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- *Hatzegopteryx*
- *Hatzegopteryx* versus *Quetzalcoatlus*
- Head Crests
- Wings

Visit [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) for free resources and support: teaching activities; quizzes; reading levels; and alignment to Common Core, NGSS, and state standards.

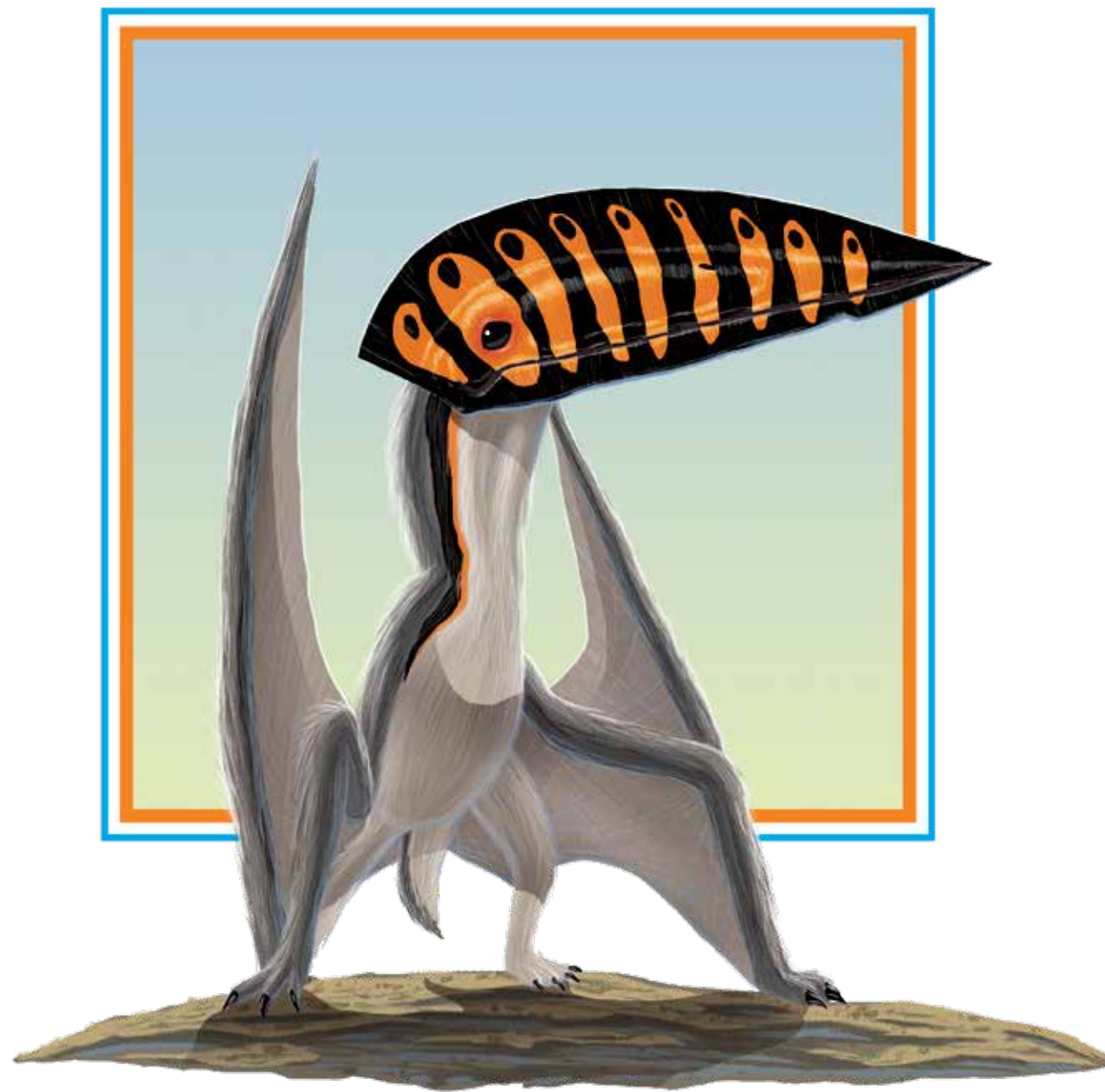
Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

It's said that people know the most about dinosaurs when they are 4 years old or have a 4-year old child—unless they get a degree in paleontology! Author and illustrator **Timothy J. Bradley** might be the exception to this rule with his paleontology-related books and illustrations. In addition to *I am Hatzegopteryx*, Tim also wrote and illustrated *I am Allosaurus* for Arbordale. Tim's books have earned awards and accolades from reviewers including *The Horn Book*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Booklist*. To learn more about Tim's other books, visit his website at [www.timjbradley.com](http://www.timjbradley.com).



Timothy J. Bradley

# I AM HATZEGOPTERYX



by Timothy J. Bradley

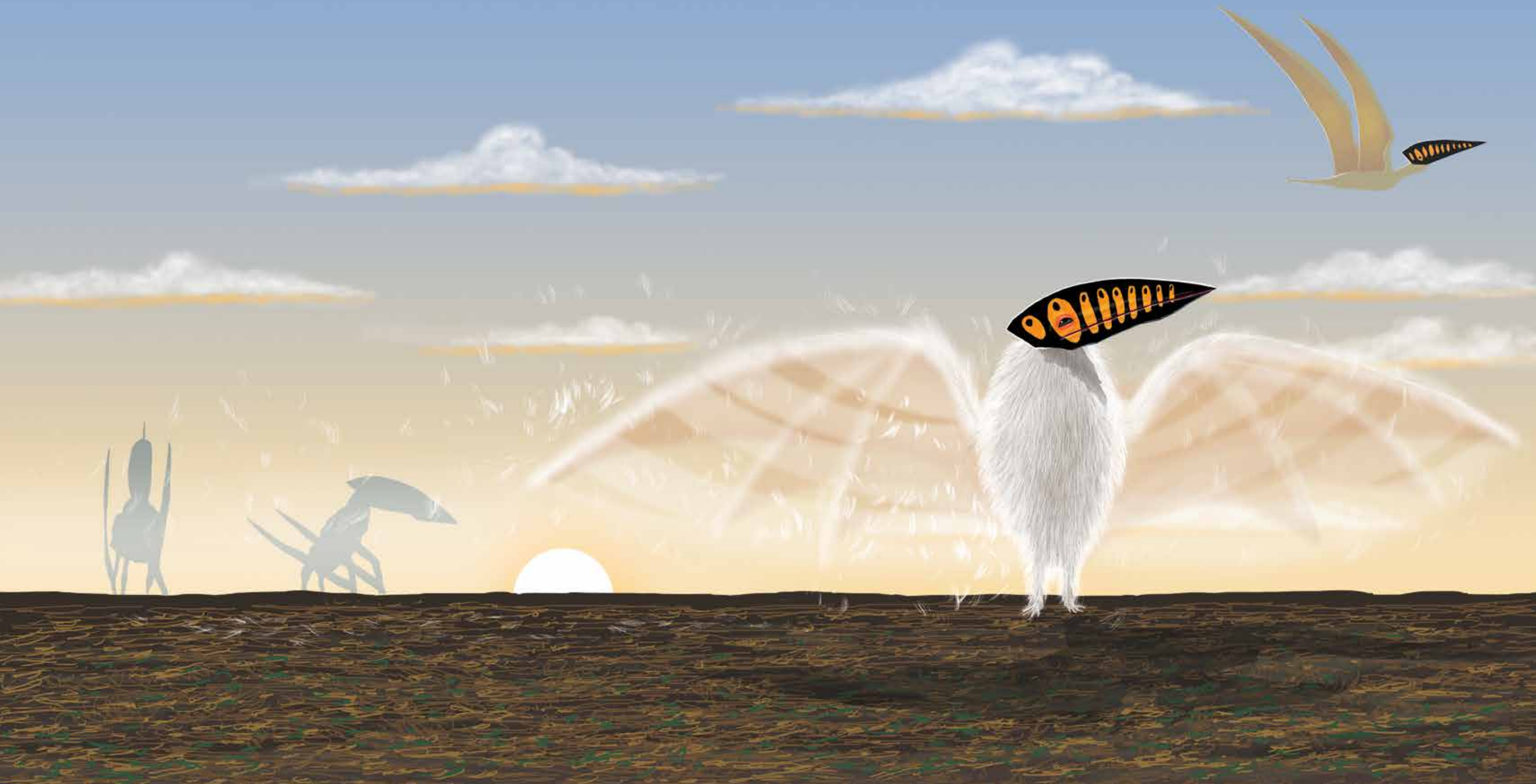
I am *Hatzegopteryx*.



I can hatch.

I am *Hatzegopteryx*.

I can flap.

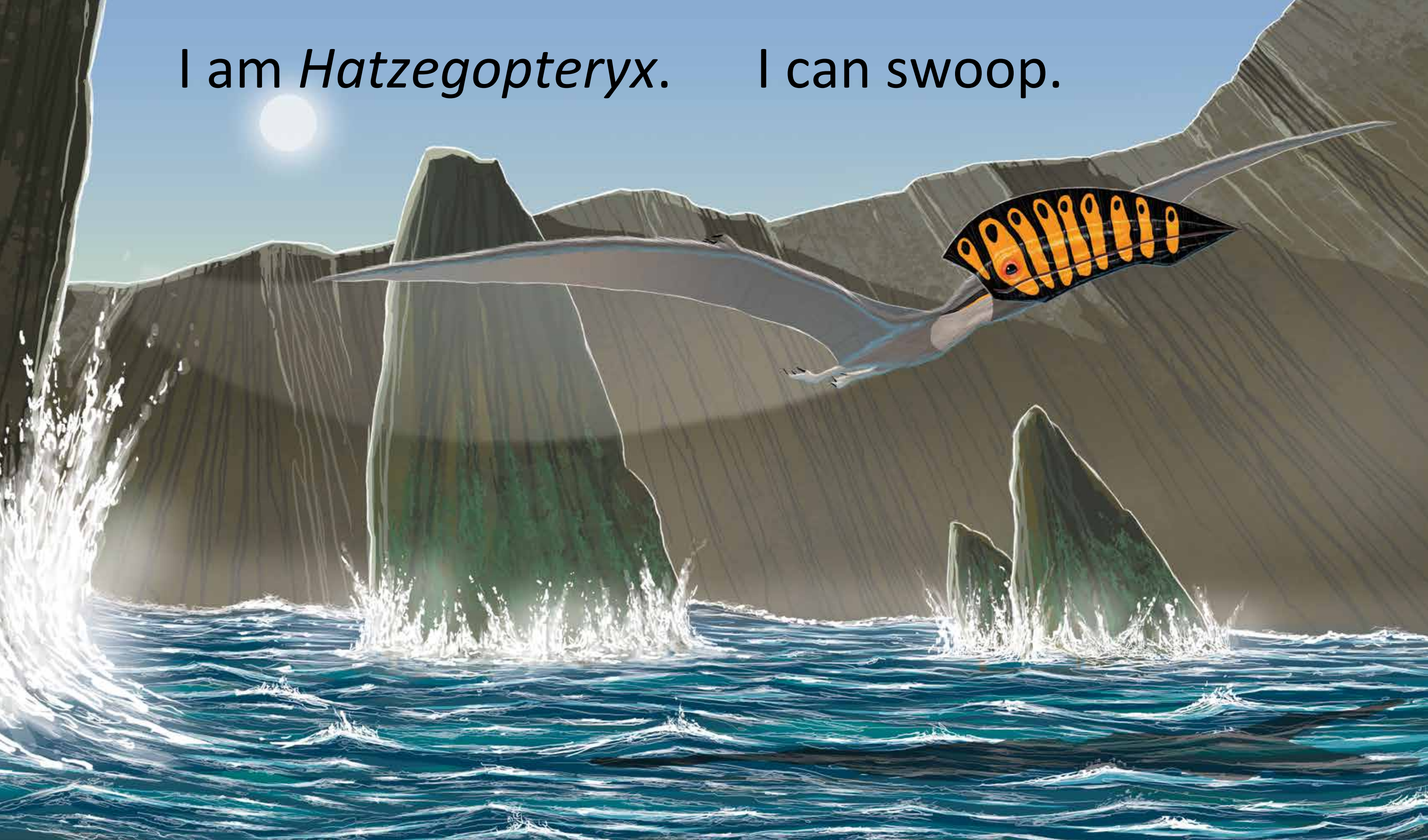


I am *Hatzegopteryx*.



I can leap.

I am *Hatzegopteryx*. I can swoop.



## For Creative Minds

This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial use. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online.

Visit [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) to explore additional resources.

### Hatzegopteryx

The *Hatzegopteryx* was not a dinosaur but was a type of flying reptile called a pterosaur (TER-oh-sore). It lived about 66 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous Period.

Triassic Period  
(251-199 million years ago)

Jurassic Period  
(199-145 million years ago)

Cretaceous Period  
(145-65 million years ago)

Hatzegopteryx 66 million years ago

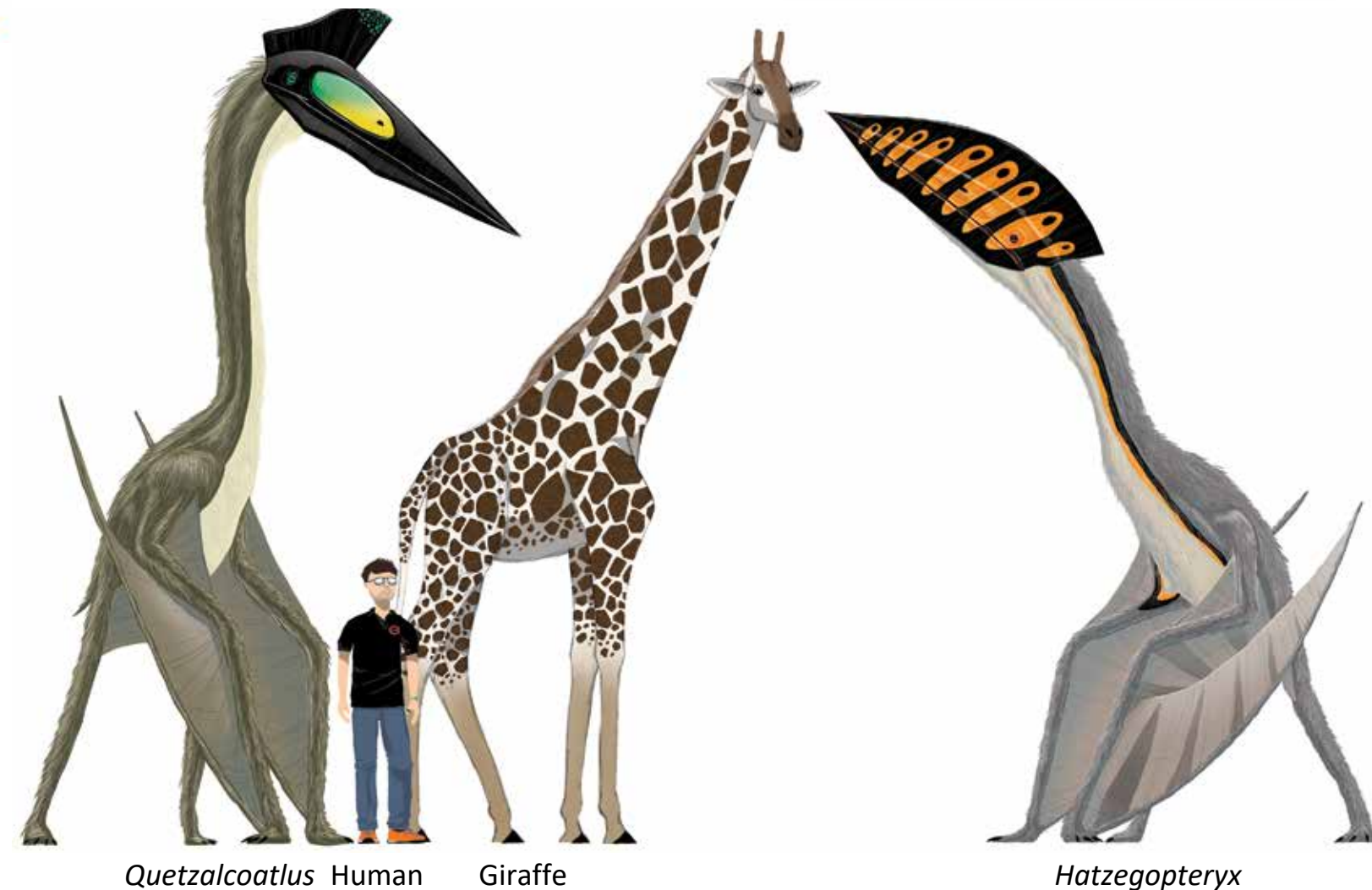
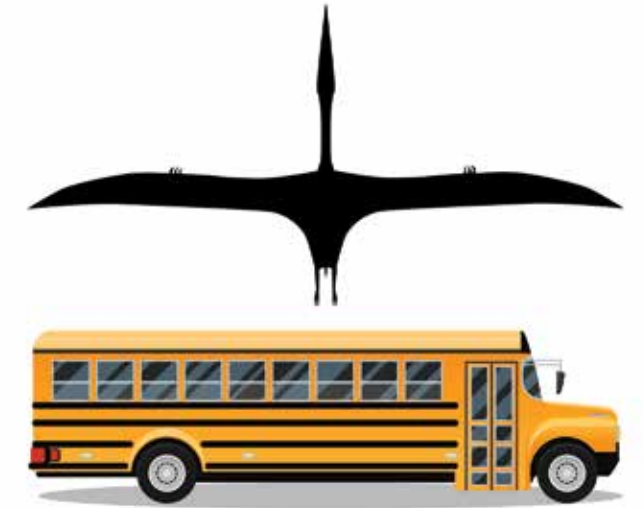
*Hatzegopteryx* was found in an area of present-day Romania called Hațeg (HAT-zeg) Island. During the Cretaceous Period, this area was mostly under an ancient ocean, with the area of Hațeg Island rising above the water.



### Hatzegopteryx versus Quetzalcoatlus

The *Hatzegopteryx* and the other giant pterosaur, *Quetzalcoatlus*, were the top two biggest flying reptiles ever. Standing, they were both about the heights of today's giraffe. The *Hatzegopteryx* had a shorter neck and a stouter beak than *Quetzalcoatlus*.

Paleontologists believe that *Hatzegopteryx* hunted on land. Its wings would have been folded into a walking posture, allowing it to search the landscape for small dinosaurs (just about your size!) to gulp down in one swallow. The *Quetzalcoatlus* also hunted on land, but ate smaller dinosaurs and reptiles.



Quetzalcoatlus Human Giraffe

Hatzegopteryx

## Head Crests

Like many other pterosaurs, the *Hatzegopteryx* had a large crest on its head that ran from the back of its skull all the way to the end of its beak. The pterosaurs had crests that were all different shapes.

Scientists aren't sure why they had such decorative adaptations. The crests may have acted like the rudders on an airplane, helping the pterosaur fly more efficiently. It's also possible that they were brightly colored and used to attract a mate. Maybe they helped the pterosaur to warm up more quickly, soaking up the sunshine. We may never know.

Whatever the reason, the flamboyant head crests of *Hatzegopteryx* and other pterosaurs made them very unique and fascinating prehistoric creatures.

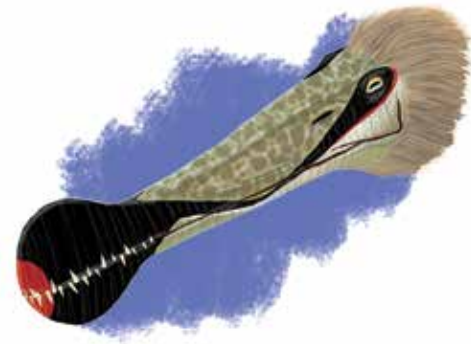
*Can you think of any animals that have head crests today?*



*Tupandactylus*



*Nyctasurus*



*Ornithocheirus*



*Dsungaripterus*



*Thalassodromeus*

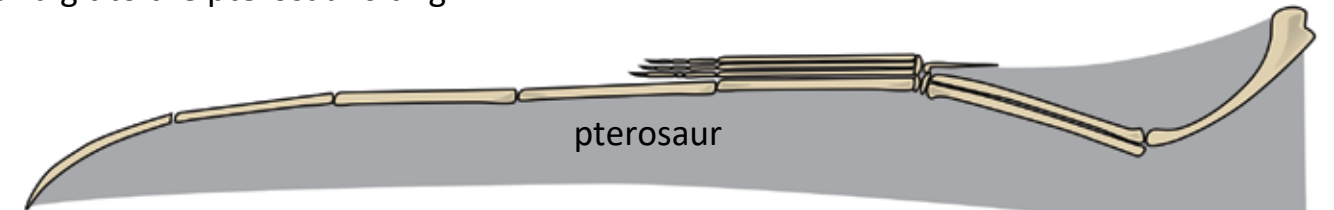


Today's Animals

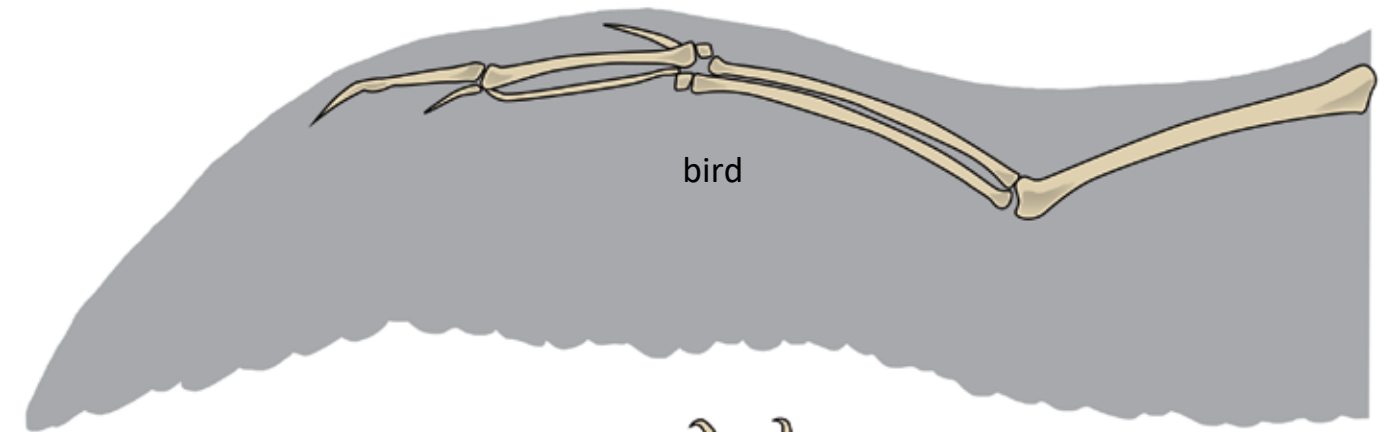
## Wings

There are many animals in the world today that can fly or glide through the air. Birds, along with some lizards, aquatic creatures, and mammals can guide themselves through the air. Flying or gliding is a great way to escape from predators or to hunt for food.

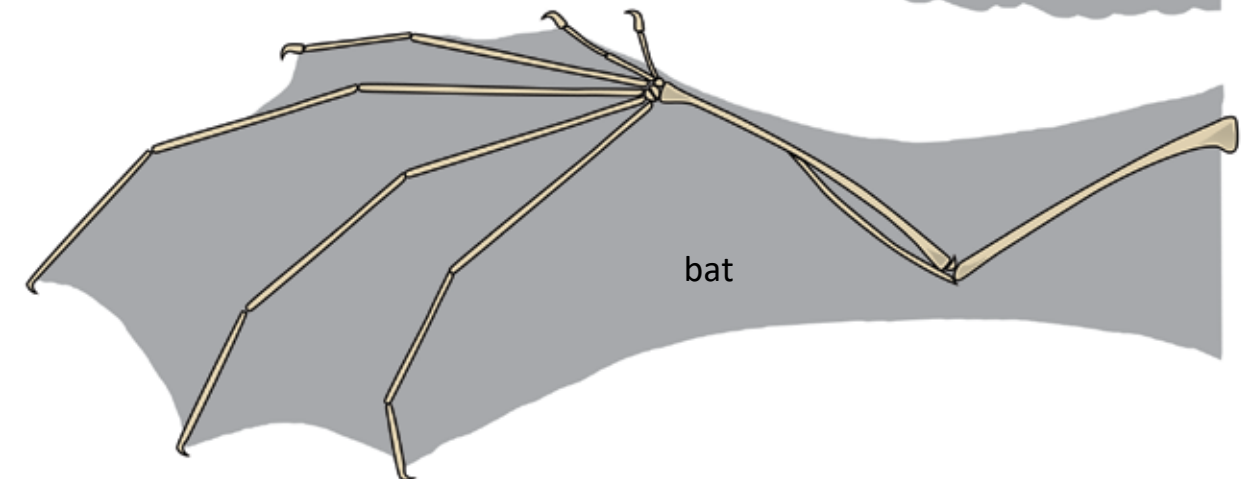
There are many different adaptations that allow creatures to move through the air. Pterosaurs had "hands" modified into wings—similar to today's birds and bats. If you look at the bones of birds' forelimbs, you can see that they have lost their individual fingers and have grown feathers. Bats' fingers have elongated, except for their "thumb," and have skin stretched between the fingers, making their wings. Pterosaurs had three very short clawed "fingers" and a drastically elongated fourth "finger." A layer of skin stretched from the end of the long fourth digit to the pterosaur's thigh.



pterosaur



bird



bat



Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bradley, Timothy J., author.

Title: I am hatzegopteryx / Timothy J. Bradley.

Description: Mt. Pleasant, SC : Arbordale Publishing, LLC, [2021] | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021013699 (print) | LCCN 2021013700 (ebook) | ISBN 9781643518213 (paperback) | ISBN 9781643518350 (adobe pdf) | ISBN 9781643518497 (epub) | ISBN 9781643518633

Subjects: LCSH: Dinosaurs--Flight--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QE861.6.F45 B73 2021 (print) | LCC QE861.6.F45 (ebook) | DDC 567.918--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021013699>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021013700>

Bibliography

Fritts, Rachel. Hatzegopteryx, Transylvania's dinosaur hunter. Earth Archives. Internet. March 2020

Naish D, Witton MP. 2017. Neck biomechanics indicate that giant Transylvanian azhdarchid pterosaurs were short-necked arch predators. PeerJ 5:e2908 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.2908>



Copyright 2021 © by Timothy J. Bradley

The "For Creative Minds" educational section may be copied by the owner for personal use or by educators using copies in classroom settings.

Printed in the US  
This product conforms to CPSIA 2008

Arbordale Publishing  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
[www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com)



If you enjoy this book, look for other Arbordale books that may be of interest:



Includes 4 pages of learning activities.

Look for more free activities online at

[ArbordalePublishing.com](http://ArbordalePublishing.com)