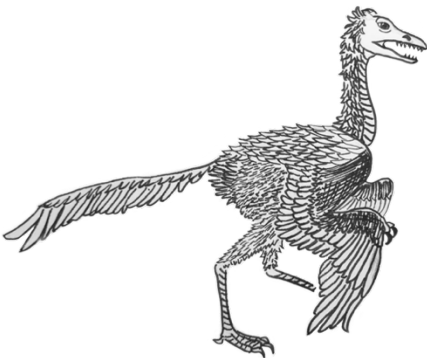


Flight and feathers Online programme

Evolution of birds and feathers

- *From membrane to feathers:* The earliest known reptile that could fly was the *Pterosaurs*, “wing-lizard”. They had membrane-like wings which assisted them to glide in between forests and mountains.
- Why did feathers evolve when animals had already developed membrane-like wings for flight? Maybe membrane-like wings are not easy to fold and can be torn apart quite easily. These disadvantages made *Pterosaurs* unable to fly well, hunt and escape from predators so they are out matched by other animal species.



- After millions of years of evolution an animal with feathers quickly gained the survival advantage, this animal is called *Archaeopteryx*, it is the first reptile covered in feathers!

Now let's play a game! Click the link “[Flap to the future](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/features/flaptothefuture/)”, a flight adaptation game from Cornell lab and answer the question below.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/features/flaptothefuture/>

Activity 5. Use the box below, write a paragraph to explain the advantages of evolving feathers.