

Game Interface Explanation

The game interface includes three columns of information. Below is a picture of the full screen. Each following page explains the interface elements of each column.

Full Screen:

The screenshot displays the 'Age of Dinosaurs' game interface. At the top, a blue header reads 'Age of Dinosaurs' with 'Dinosaurs ???' and 'Mammals ???' on either side. The central part of the screen features a phylogenetic tree and a fossil record. The tree shows the evolution of various groups: Reptiles, Mammals, Flying Reptiles, Theropods, and Birds. The fossil record shows the presence of Swimming Reptiles, Flying Reptiles, and Theropods. The Mesozoic Era is divided into the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. Key time points are marked: 251,000,000 years ago (start of Mesozoic), 199,600,000 years ago (start of Jurassic), 143,500,000 years ago (start of Cretaceous), and 65,500,000 years ago (end of Cretaceous). A 'Fossil Record' bar indicates the presence of various groups over time.

On the left side, there is a character panel with a speech bubble that says: 'If Flying Reptile matches any adaptations on the right, drag its dot to an answer circle below the adaptation.' Below the character are buttons for 'Correct 0', 'Wrong 0', 'Help', 'About', and 'Replay'. At the bottom left, there is an image of a Flying Reptile (Pteranodon).

At the bottom center, there is a detailed information panel for the Flying Reptile (Pteranodon):

Flying Reptile (Pteranodon)
lived 85,000,000 - 75,500,000 years ago

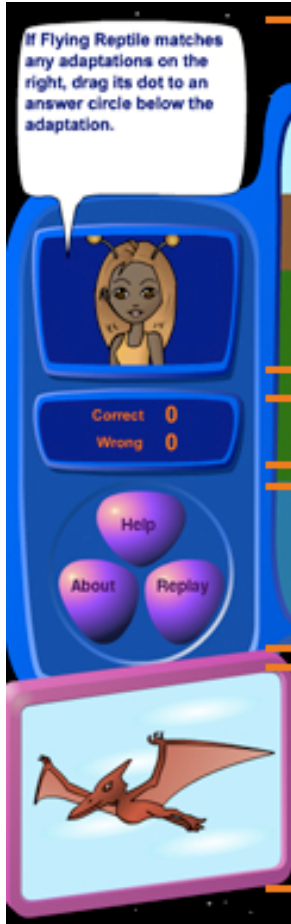
Description	My Environment
1.) I have leathery skin and no feathers.	lake and sea shores.
2.) I have a beak and no teeth.	
3.) I fly by flapping my wings and by gliding.	What do I eat?
4.) My branch evolved separately from birds.	fish and squid
5.) I can grasp with my back feet and perhaps use the claws on my wings like hands.	What ate me?
	theropod dinosaurs???

On the right side, there is an 'Adaptations' panel with three text boxes and green circles below them:

- My entire branch became extinct by the end of the Cretaceous period.
- I was around in the age of dinosaurs and my species still exists today.
- My ancestor was theropod dinosaurs but I am not a dinosaur.

At the bottom right, there is a height comparison panel showing a human figure next to a Flying Reptile. The text says: '6 ft tall, 25 ft wingspan'. The vertical axis is labeled '(feet)' with markings at 0, 6, and 15. The horizontal axis is also labeled '(feet)'.

Left Column:



Chief Scientist (Narrator)

The Chief Scientist communicates with the player verbally and via text in her word bubble.

Player Statistics

Player statistics displayed include the number of correct and incorrect guesses.

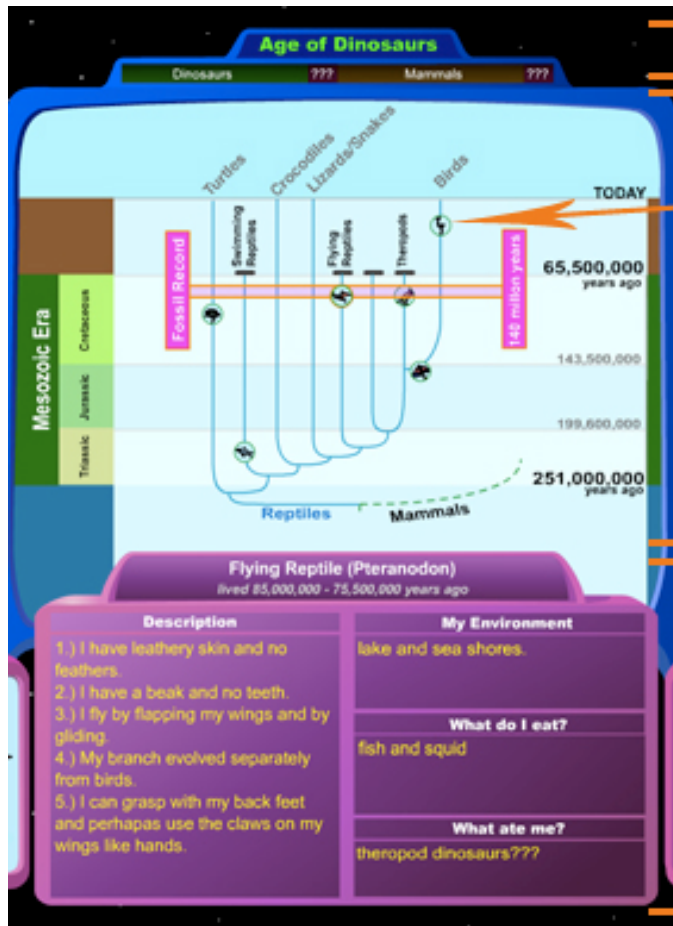
Game Menu

The game menu includes buttons for help, information about the game, and an option to replay, or restart, the game.

Left Display Screen

The left display screen is used to show the picture of the critter.

Middle Column:



Game Timeline

The game timeline displays the current progress the player has made within the game.

Critter Dot

Tree of Life

The Tree of Life is the primary display for the game. It is a timeline and family tree mapping the history of life on earth. Ancient critters are represented by dots on the tree. Clicking on a **critter dot** brings up details about the critter in the **Critter Description Box**.

Critter Description Box

The critter description displays details about the critters, one critter at a time. Information provided includes when and for how long that species existed on Earth, what they ate and what ate them, and the environment they lived in.

Right Column:

Adaptations
The adaptations portion of the screen displays three (3) "adaptation challenges" per round. The player's job is to figure out which critters match each adaptation. They do so by clicking on a critter dot from the **Tree of Life** and dragging it onto one of the **answer circles** beneath the adaptation. Some critters fit one adaptation, some more than one adaptation, while others do not fit any of the adaptations.

Adaptation Challenge

Answer Circle

Right Display Screen
The right display screen is used to visually show the height of the critter in comparison with humans.

