## Unique Prehistoric Discoveries

I've always been interested in prehistoric creatures. I love learning about new information being discovered. Scientists uncover new aspects of prehistoric life every day. I often spend my free time watching documentaries such as *Prehistoric Planet*. My love for learning about this topic was sparked again when I started college.

One of the most exciting discoveries is when scientists first found the remains of azhdarchid pterosaurs. Pterosaurs are prehistoric reptiles that lived at the same time of the dinosaurs. They ruled the prehistoric skies, and came in a lot of different body shapes and sizes.

<u>Azhdarchids</u> are the largest, and in my opinion, the most unique of the pterosaurs. They can be as tall as a giraffe, and walk on the ground quadrupedally. Their heads are as long as a person is tall. The scientific community has debated over these creatures for years. Could they fly? How did they hunt? If they could fly, how could they take off from the ground?

Recent discoveries proved that yes, they could fly. Azhdarchids were light enough to do so, despite their immense size. They were theorized to eat small dinosaurs, by walking along the prehistoric ground and snatching up their prey with their huge beaks. Due to their unique body structure, they did not have too much difficulty taking off into the air.

Azhdarchids are extremely interesting to me due to their alien-like nature. They do not look like any other creature that has existed on earth.

Another unique prehistoric creature was the <u>Therizinosaurus</u>. This was a large herbivorous dinosaur that had huge claws on its front limbs. These claws were debated by paleontologists for years. They were the first remains of this creature discovered, and were thought at first to be the ribs of a giant turtle. Eventually, scientists figured out that the bones belonged to a large theropod dinosaur instead. Theropod dinosaurs are classified by smaller front limbs and more hollow bones.

I love learning about unique prehistoric creatures, and I'm very interested to see what the scientific community uncovers next. According to paleontologists, we have only discovered about a third of all dinosaurs, so there are still many more creatures waiting to be unearthed.