

# PLESIOSAUR

- Official name: *Kaiwhekea katiki*
- Where the fossil was found - in a boulder made of hardened mudstone (concretion) near Matakaea / Shag Point
- Size: Seven metres long
- Age: Around 70 million years old!
- Went extinct around 66 million years ago (the same time as the dinosaurs)
- Where you can see the fossil: The Otago Museum in Dunedin
- 'Plesiosaur' means 'nearer to the reptiles' - they were not dinosaurs.

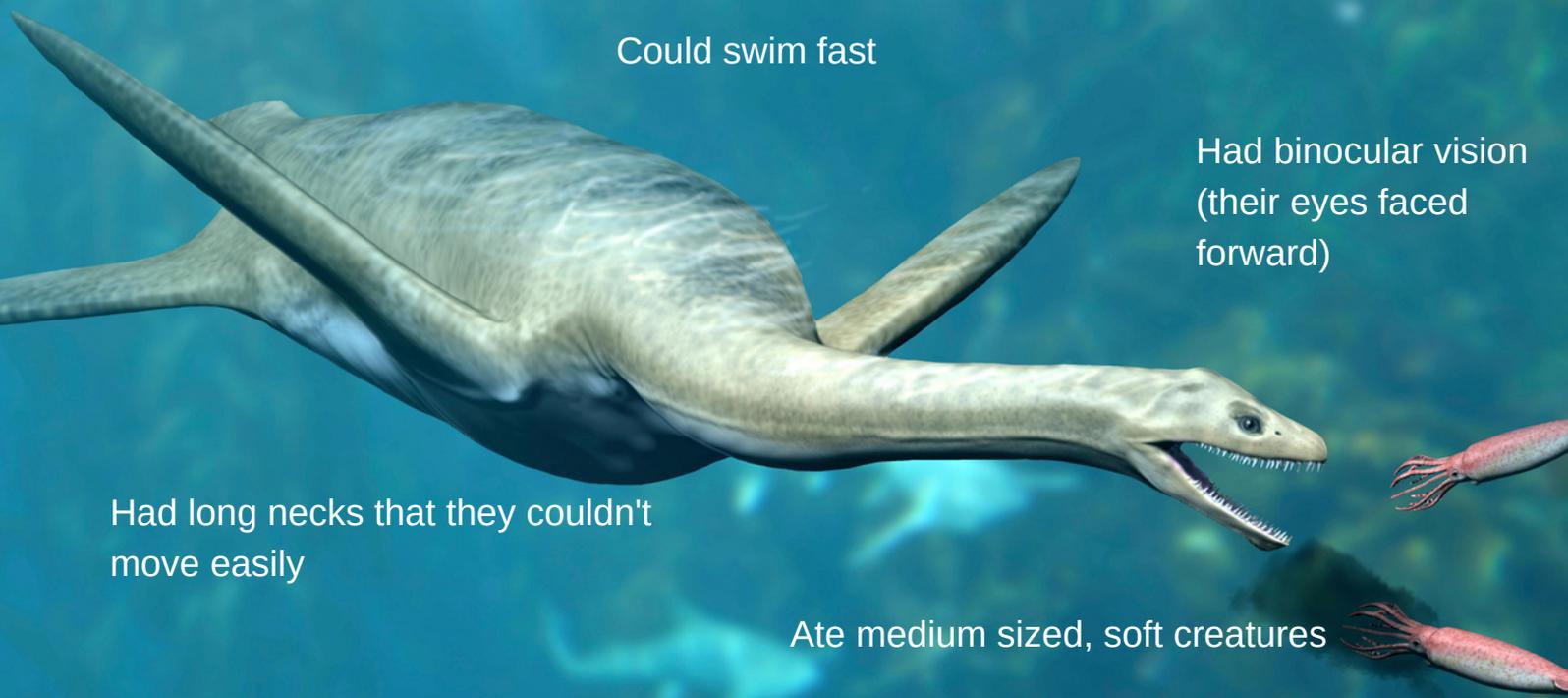
From the fossil record it is thought plesiosaurs:

Could swim fast

Had binocular vision  
(their eyes faced forward)

Had long necks that they couldn't  
move easily

Ate medium sized, soft creatures



Ref: Fordyce, R E 'Kaiwhekea Katiki, a Late Cretaceous plesiosaur from high southern latitudes' p 1 – 2, accessed 19 February 2020