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Integrated Task - TPO 47

The reading asserts that there are some arguments about pterosaurs, an ancient group of reptiles, suggesting that they couldn’t fly although they had wings. The lecturer, however, finds the idea dubious and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

First the author argues that previous reptiles were cold blooded as the reptiles that live in our era are cold blooded. So they couldn’t provide enough energy to do a task requiring a great amount of energy like flying. Conversely, the lecturer brings the idea that the ancient reptiles were probably warm blooded because of the fact that they had dense hairs in order to keep them warm in low temperatures. Therefore they may be able to produce such amounts of energy to fly.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that pterosaurs were probably too heavy to be kept airborne. The article notes that they might not be able to flap their wings so fast. On the contrary, the professor underlines the fact that pterosaurs’s weights were low enough for flying. She argues that they had hollow bones due to the fossil records, which lead to a light weight. So their light weight allowed them to keep themself airborne.

Finally, it is stated in the article that animals with flying ability such as birds have strong muscles in their feet which allow them to run fast and jump from their legs before flying. But the fossilized bones revealed that pterosaurs didn’t have strong back muscles. In contrast, the speaker dismisses the issue due to the fact that some other flying animals except birds use four limbs instead of two in order to jump before flying. She provides the example of bats in order to illustrate her main point. She implies that pterosaurs used their four limbs to lunch to the flight like bats.

306 words

35 minutes