

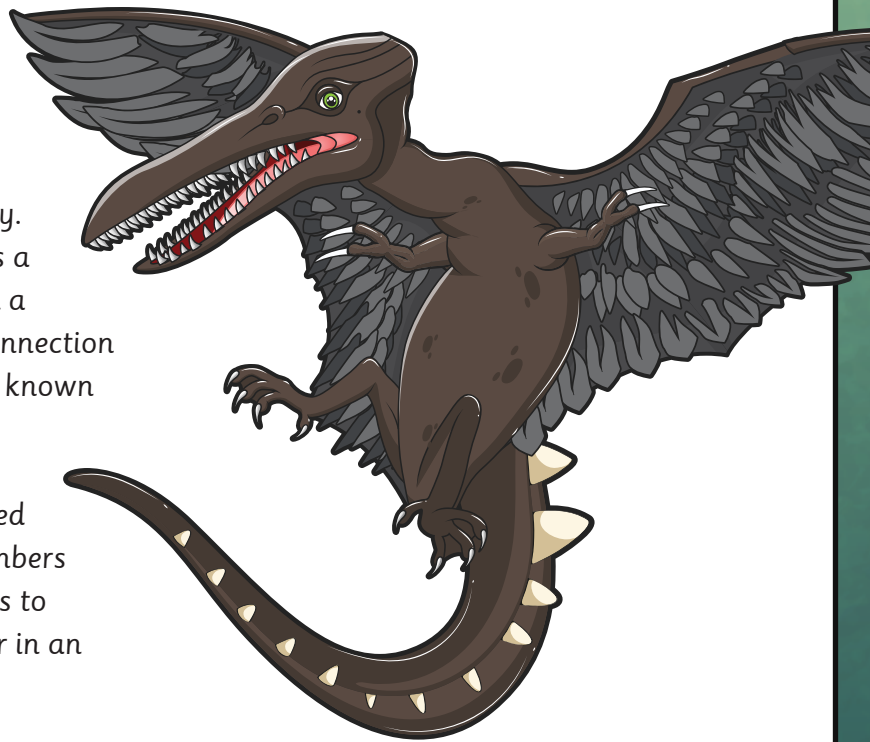
# The Snallygaster

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Astonishing though it may seem to many wizards, **Muggles** have not always been ignorant to the existence of some beasts however the majority of these magical and monstrous creatures have managed to shroud their existence for centuries. The snallygaster, on the other hand, isn't the most difficult beast to spot due to its plucky demeanour. They have found their way into Muggle newspapers so frequently that they're known for being one of the most **publicity hungry** monsters in the world.

## Natural history:

Native to North America, the part-bird, part-reptile Snallygaster was once believed to be a kind of dragon but is now known to be a closer relative of the Occamy. The Occamy is found in the Far East and is a **plumed**, two-legged, winged creature with a **serpent's** body – you can clearly see the connection between the two beasts. Snallygasters are known for having a curious and plucky manner therefore, since 1949, a dedicated **Snallygaster Protection League** has been stationed permanently in Maryland (where high numbers of the beast are known to live). Their aim is to **obliterate** Muggles who see the Snallygaster in an attempt to conceal its identity.



## Appearance:

The enormous Snallygaster, unlike dragons, cannot breathe fire however, they possess fangs of strong, **serrated steel** with which it slices through its prey with frightening ease. The 2400 fangs belonging to the creature are located inside its three meter long, pointed beak, which alone could be used to inflict fatal damage to its prey. The Snallygaster walks on two legs and has short, stumpy arms (similar to that of a Tyrannosaurus Rex) with long, crystal-like claws. From its shoulders, sprout wings feathered on the upside and scaled with silver and purple on the underside- similar to a night's sky. Its thick, leathery tail, coupled with a bulletproof **hide**, renders it difficult to scare away; there aren't many beasts that can compete with this behemoth in battle.

## Diet:

Like most reptiles and birds, the Snallygaster is an **omnivore**. Its main source of food comes from large **cattle**, which it spots when patrolling the skies. It will also feast on goats, sheep and even larger wild cats. Advantaged by its ability to fly, the Snallygaster can cover vast distances in search for prey. When meat is scarce, it will resort to eating plants and fruit in the area. Snallygasters, equipped with **night vision**, do the majority of their hunting in the dark-taking their prey by surprise. They usually forage for fruit in the day time when their vision is clearer.