Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Pteranodon vs Dimorphodon

Duration: 12’ 28”

[ABC Kids podcast sting – this is an ABC podcast]

[*Dinosaur roars and exciting music]*

**Amanda**: From elaphrosaurus to eoraptor, nanoceratops to nothronychus. It’s time for some reptilian rivals and primordial predators, to go head-to-head in the greatest race of all time!

*[Exciting music]*

Welcome to… the Dino Dome!

*[Applause]*

**Amanda**: Every week, a prehistoric pair races in the dome as Jurassic addicts watch on.

But it’s not as simple as it sounds. The landscape and obstacles are never the same, from blizzards to beaches, floods to fjords, anything goes in the Dino Dome!

I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, but I couldn’t call today’s race without the help of Dino Dome fact-o-saurus, the Mesozoic master himself Tim Richards!

*[Applause]*

**Tim**: Dino-mite to be here, Amanda!

**Amanda**, **Tim** **and child’s voice:** Let’s get ready to roar!

*[Ding, ding, ding]*

**Child’s voice on megaphone**: Weighing in at just two kilos, no bigger than a cheeky chihuahua, but with a wing-span as wide as a broom handle. Flap your wings for this flying fiend… it’s dimorphodon!

*[Flapping wings and squawk]*

**Child’s voice on megaphone**: And gliding in at a lean 36 kilos, this is more like a Labrador, but with wings as wide as three king-sized beds. Is it a pelican? No! It’s Pteranodon!

*[Flapping wings and squawk]*

**Amanda**: Wow! This is our first race with two winged dinosaurs. Surely Pteranodon has this race in the bag.

**Tim:** She might be toothless, but Pterandon’s beak is longer than Dimorphodon’s entire body! She could probably swallow her whole.

**Amanda**: Gulp!

**Tim**: I just need to point out, in the interests of accuracy, our competitors today are not dinosaurs.

**Amanda**: Ugh here we go again!

**Tim**: They’re pterosaurs – flying reptiles.

**Amanda**: They’re always in the dinosaur books and movies.

**Tim**: These flyers lived *alongside* dinos, but pterosaurs evolved on their own branch of the reptile family tree, they’re more like…

**Amanda**: Cretaceous cousins!

**Tim**: Exactly!

**Amanda**: I’m assuming two flyers means it’ll be all eyes on the skies, but…

*[Theme song ‘anything goes in the Dino Dome’]*

**Amanda**: Let’s check the landscape for today’s clash.

*[Water and mechanical sounds]*

**Amanda**: Hmmm, there’s water gushing in at ground level.

**Tim**: The water’s forming a channel between two sandy shores.

**Amanda**: Here come some clouds.

It’s also looking quite grey up there.

**Tim**: Yes, stormy weather ahead, I predict.

**Amanda**: Oh look! There’s a little island in the middle of the channel too.

**Tim**: A resting spot, perhaps?

**Amanda**: So, the flyers will start on the shore close to us, then it’ll be an air race across the channel, through the clouds, over the island and ending at the finish line on the distant sandy shoreline.

**Tim**: Get ready for take off!

**Amanda**: On your perches… get set…

*[Siren]*

**Tim**, **Amanda and child’s voice:** Dinos go!

**Amanda**: Pteranodon has surged ahead - she’s gliding like an albatross out there.

**Tim**: Precisely. Pteranodon has a muscly chest and shoulders, but those big wings are built for soaring not constant flapping.

**Amanda**: Unlike poor dimorphodon still over the starting perch – she’s hovering like a hummingbird!

**Tim**: Maybe more like a bat!

**Amanda:** Y’know, looking at Morphie, she just doesn’t seem built for flight.

**Tim**: She does have an unusual appearance. Her head and beak is quite over-sized in comparison to her body… a bit like a flying lollipop.

**Amanda:** More like a chihuahua with a head like a toucan and huge bat wings! Morphie, you’re a mess! And what’s going on with that tail?

**Tim**: It’s long, and stiff, and helps keep her stable. Look she’s finding her balance.

**Amanda:** Not for long

*[Thump]*

**Amanda**: Whoops! Dimorphodon has dropped from the air and landed on the sand underneath her starting perch!

**Tim**: See how she’s folding her wings?

**Amanda**: Yeah, they look like stumpy front legs now.

**Tim:** Yup – dimorphodon likes to bend those wings and use them for walking.

**Amanda**: So she’s not a flyer after all? She’s like a… penguin?

**Tim**: Well, she *can* fly… she just prefers walking.

**Amanda**: Well, there’s no time for ground-level shenanigans here, dimorphodon! Pteranodon is soaring!

**Tim:** No wait, she’s swooping!

**Amanda:** Donny is [pulling her wings in close](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/pterosaurs) to pick up speed as she descends towards the water!

Why is she doing this, Tim? Surely it’s faster to stay up high?

*[Splash]*

**Tim**: That’s your answer. Pteranodon scooped up a fish!

**Amanda**: An in-flight meal! What does dimorphodon like to eat? Maybe she needs a snack too, she’s not making much progress.

**Tim**: We think she’s a fish-eater, but there are some that say she could have been an insectivore.

**Amanda**: Hang on, you said she was a flying reptile!

**Tim**: It means she *eats* insects.

**Amanda**: She’s all about that bug life.

*[Buzzing]*

**Tim**: Can you hear that?

**Amanda**: I don’t believe it – the dome has just released a swarm of bees into the course!

**Tim**: Look!

**Amanda**: Dimorphodon is back in the air and chasing the bees! With a little help from this southerly, Morphie’s hot on your tail feathers, Donny!

**Tim**: Morphie? Donny?

**Amanda**: Yeah, Morphie for DiMORPHodon; and Donny for PteranoDON.

**Tim**: You sports reporters and your nicknames.

**Amanda**:**:** Uh oh… the bees are catching up with Pteranodon.

*[Yelp]*

**Amanda**: Ouch! Looks like she’s been stung!

Pteranadon is coming down!

*[Splash]*

**Amanda:** She’s landed on the water’s surface

And is soaking her *bee*-hind.

Meanwhile, Morphie is following and swallowing the bees as they buzz across the sky! She looks like she’s having the time of her life out there!

**Tim**: Donny will lose her lead if she doesn’t get out of the water and back into flight mode.

**Amanda**: She heard you, Tim!

Donny is stretching her wings! She’s lunging forward… she’s…

*[Splash]*

**Amanda**: Face down in the water.

What is going on?

**Tim**: Ah, yes, this can happen to Pteranodon. Because she’s so heavy, she really needs to time her water take-offs with a strong gust of wind. Where’d that southerly go?

*[Wind]*

**Amanda:** Here we go! Spread those wings, Donny!

**Amanda:** Up… up…. and…

**Tim**: Away!

**Amanda:** Donny’s back in the sky! With Morphie not far behind.

**Tim**: Wow that wind has really picked up.

**Amanda:** Looks like it’s causing some problems for Morphie… she’s got the wobbles!

**Tim**: Turbulence!

*[Rain and thunder]*

**Tim:** Oh no! Here comes that stormy weather!

**Amanda:** Donny is still out in front, but she’s not liking this rain… she’s slowing down and flying low.

**Tim**: Ah, she’s coming in for a landing on the island - an ideal stopover.

**Amanda:** And it’s a smooth touch down on the island for Donny. Will Morphie follow her lead and get out of the rain?

**Tim**: Yep, here she comes for a bumpy landing.

**Amanda:** And she’s somersaulting across the ground in a spectacularly silly landing!

**Amanda:** Now what? Both our flyers are grounded mid-race.

*[Hissing, scratching]*

**Tim**: Our competitors don’t seem very fond of each other

**Amanda**: Families can be complicated. Look! Morpie’s climbing a tree to get out of Donny’s grill… or bill? Wow look at her go. Those talons have quite the grip!

**Tim**: [They’re basically hands](https://www.britannica.com/animal/Dimorphodon)… with the first three clawed-fingers developed for grasping.

**Amanda:** Whoa! She’s using her jaws to hoist herself up too!

**Tim**: Yep – her name actually means ‘two-formed tooth’ thanks to her long, curved fangs at the front of her jaws and the short pointy teeth at the back.

*[Roar and rumble]*

**Amanda:** Sounds like the storms getting worse… listen to that thunder!

**Tim**: That’s not thunder, Amanda! That’s a tsunami!

**Amanda**: Donny’s spotted the wave! She’s shaking off the rain and spreading her wings!

**Tim**: It’s windy enough now, she’ll have no trouble catching an updraft.

**Amanda:** And there she goes! I can’t see what Morphie’s doing. She’s still in the tree but has she spotted the wave?

**Tim**: Dimorphodon has excellent eye sight! I hope this is a strategy.

**Amanda**: This could be a wipe out!

*[Surging wave]*

**Tim:** Here it comes!

*[Crash]*

**Amanda:** The wave has hit the island and ripped the tree out from the roots! But Morphie’s hanging on! She’s riding the tree like a surfboard!!!

*[Applause]*

**Tim**: Impossible!

**Amanda**: That word doesn’t *exist* here! Anything goes in the Dino Dome!

Donny’s still flying high but that southerly looks like it’s changed direction. She’s battling a strong head wind to the finish line.

**Tim**: Even with her powerful wings, she’s not really getting anywhere, she’s more likely to tire herself out.

**Amanda**: Meanwhile, Morphie is getting tubed. Show us your shakas because this reptile is ripping!

**Tim**: I only understood half of that.

**Amanda**: Morphie’s hanging ten!

**Tim**: Come again?

**Amanda**: She’s done a switch stance!

**Tim**: Huh?

**Amanda**: Alley oop!

**Tim:** Alley what now?

**Amanda:** Rodeo flip!

**Tim:** No.

**Amanda**: Floater!

**Tim:** What the?

**Amanda:** Tail slide!

Re-entry!

**Tim**: Pardon?

**Amanda:** It doesn’t matter.

*[Siren]*

**Child’s voice on megaphone:** Winner!

**Amanda:** Morphie has surfed the wave over the finish line.

With Donny landing just a few feet behind.

That was a powerful display, Pteranodon, she should be stoked with that finish.

**Tim**: Absolutely. You head down to the shoreline to meet them while I run our Domers through an action replay.

*[Action replay music]*

**Tim**: It was a slow start for Morphie who lingered at ground level while Donny soared straight to the channel where she swooped up a fishy snack. A swarm of bees then enticed Morphie into the air… but the stingers sent Donny plummeting to the sea, and she needed a gust of wind to get back in the sky. Until a storm hit, forcing both flyers to make an unscheduled stopover on the island. A tsunami raised the stakes and the sea level, engulfing the island and sending Donny soaring and Morphie surfing all the way to the finish line.

**Amanda:** Thanks Tim. I’m on the island for the Dino Cup presentation. Morphie has climbed down off her tree and is happy to be back on all fours. Here you go buddy, you really earned this…

*[Buzzing and squawk]*

**Amanda:** Hey!

Ah! The cup has been carried away by… a swarm of bees!

**Tim**: Well, that’s impossible but… I know, I know.

*[Theme song ‘anything goes in the Dino Dome!’]*

*[Dino Dome theme music ends as crowd cheers]*

**Disclaimer**: No dinosaurs were harmed in the making of Dino Dome, as they’re all extinct. Therefore, all sounds in Dino Dome were made by humans and animals, including vultures, emus, camels and goats. *[Goat bleats]* Yes, goats.

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