

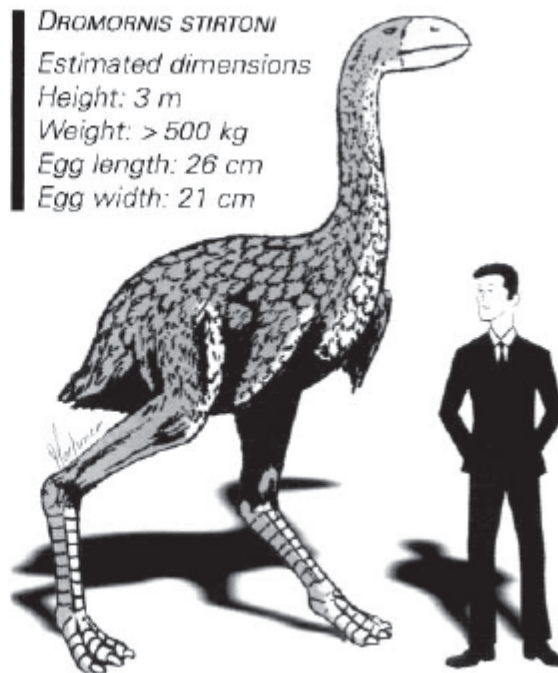
Activity two:**DEAD DUCKS FROM DOWN UNDER²**

Words mentioned in the Key points are written in **bold**.

■ Replace the words which are in **bold** and underlined by synonyms, antonyms or by an explanation.

Dromornis stirtoni, an extinct flightless bird, lived in Australia **roughly** 8 million years ago. It was probably the heaviest bird in the history of evolution, with a **weight** of **slightly more** than 500 kg although its **wing span** was very small. A considerable

amount of information has been obtained from recent fossil finds in Queensland, enabling scientists to **work out** basic **measurements**. From a morphological point of view, *Dromornis stirtoni* appears to be similar to an emu or an ostrich, however, scientists now believe that it is related to the duck species, as the massive dimensions of the head show. The bird **attained** a **height** of over 3 meters. The large head and formidable beak³ suggest that the bird was carnivorous. The **cross-section** of fossils of the leg bones reveals that the bird had **short, thick** legs indicating that it could not have run as fast as the ostrich. The **width** of the body was about the same as the **length** of the neck and legs.



- roughly – approximately
- weight – mass
- slightly more ≠ much less
- wing span – distance from one wing tip to the other
- amount – quantity
- work out – calculate
- attained – reached
- cross-section – transversal dimension
- thick ≠ thin
- width – distance across