Thinking about velociraptors

This task is about using evidence to make inferences about a dinosaur's life style.

The information in this task will help you think about velociraptors. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions.

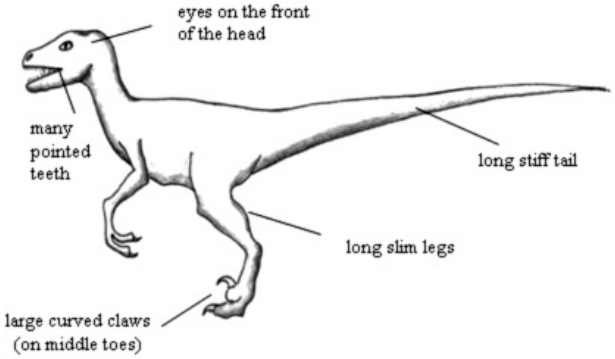
All that scientists can truly know about dinosaurs is about their bones and teeth. Most often they do not even find whole skeletons. However, the bones can give scientists lots of clues about what dinosaurs might have looked like, and how they might have lived.
Scientists know from looking at animals in today's world that:

Animals that eat **plants** are likely to have:	Animals that eat **meat** are likely to have:
• Cutting teeth at the front, and grinding teeth at the back (for example, sheep) • Eyes at the side of their head so they can see all around them (for example, rabbits) • Long slim legs so they can run fast to escape (for example, deer), or they may have big bodies and big, strong legs because plant-eaters need to eat lots of food (for example, elephant) • Structures that protect them from predators – only some have these (for example, bull's horns)	• Sharp, pointed, and/or curved teeth (for example, dogs) • Eyes at the front of their head so they can focus on their prey (for example, owls) • Long, slim legs and bodies so they can move fast to chase prey (for example, cat) • Claws to help them rip meat (for example, eagle)

Scientists don't know what a velociraptor looked like. They might **infer** what a velociraptor looked like and what it did by:

1. **looking** at fossils (usually bones and teeth);
2. **thinking** about what they know about animals with similar features.

Scientists think that a velociraptor looked something like this.



a) i) Do you think a velociraptor ate plants or meat?

- Plants
- Meat

ii) Use the information from the chart and the picture to give reasons for your answer.

b) i) How do you think a velociraptor moved?

ii) Use the information from the chart and the picture to give reasons for your answer.

c) Why might it have been useful for a velociraptor to have short front legs?

d) How might a velociraptor have used its tail?

e) In the movie Jurassic Park the velociraptors were a dark greyish brown, but we have no way of knowing if they really were.

i) What colour would you make them if you were making the film?

ii) Why do you think this would be a good colour for a velociraptor?