

How did dinosaurs become extinct?



All sorts of ideas/theories have been put forward about this over the years.

However, most scientists believe that 65 million years ago the Earth was hit by a **giant asteroid/meteorite** landing in the area which we now call Mexico.

BUT.....What do you think?

1st theory



What kind of **damage** did this cause so that the dinosaurs died?

Asteroid destroys the Earth



It caused a massive **explosion** on Earth.

It caused **red hot ash** which roasted everything on the ground leaving no vegetation.

It caused **fires** that burnt all the forests and plants.

It caused a **cloud of ash and dust** which blocked the sun so there was no sunlight to help the plants to grow.

It caused **violent winds** which created a **tsunami** (huge tidal waves) that covered the land with water, drowning the dinosaurs and plants.

2nd theory



What kind of damage did the volcanic eruptions cause so that the dinosaurs became extinct?

Volcanic eruptions

There were lots of volcanoes which were very **active** at this time. They covered the land and the forests in **molten rock** which set hard.

The eruptions caused **ash and dust** to block the sun which then affected the growth of **vegetation**.

The volcanic eruptions caused **poisonous gases** in the atmosphere which caused the dinosaurs to struggle breathing or stop breathing which meant they died.

The eruptions caused **fires** to spread through the forests and burn them down.



3rd theory



What happened to the weather to kill off the dinosaurs?

Climatic Change

The **temperatures** dropped **very low** so that the plants could no longer grow as it was too cold.

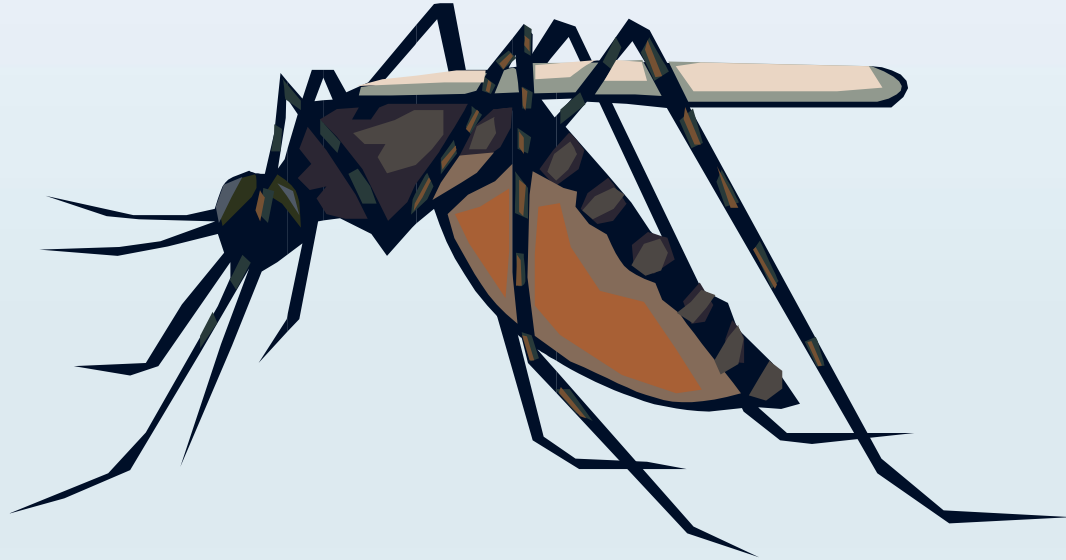


The tropical forests and plants could not survive the very cold temperatures.

The change in weather caused a **chain reaction**. The **Herbivores** died out as there were no plants growing for them to eat.

The change in weather then caused the **Carnivores** to die out as they had no Herbivores to eat.

4th theory

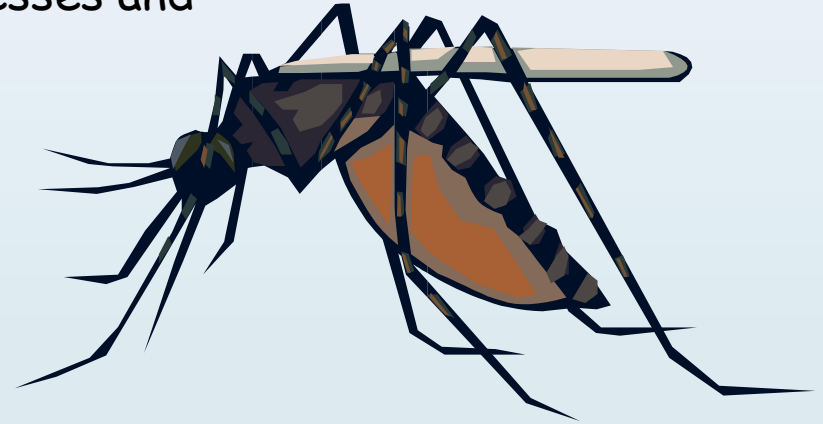


How did insects cause the extinction of dinosaurs?

Disease

Due to the very hot weather there was an increase in the number of **insects** which spread illnesses and diseases among the dinosaurs.

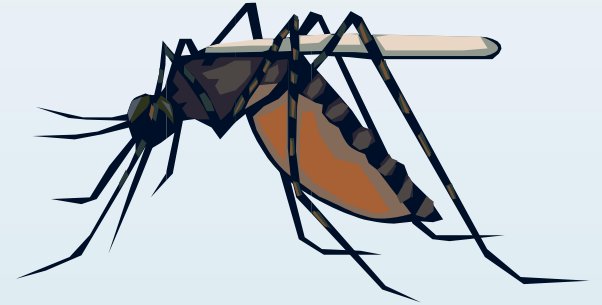
Some of the **smallest animals** caused disease to spread.



Biting insects spread new diseases to dinosaurs which caused them to die.

Bugs/ insects fed off **dinosaur dung** and then spread the germs and diseases onto the dinosaurs food which made them ill and led them to die.

Another theory???



Maybe it was one or more of these theories that were contributing factors to dinosaurs becoming extinct.



What do you think?

Your challenge!

- Can I design a poster to show **one theory** of how dinosaurs became extinct?

Work with a partner. Each person cut out the sentences on your sheet and then mix them together! Help one other to read them and then put the correct sentences with the correct theory to make your poster!

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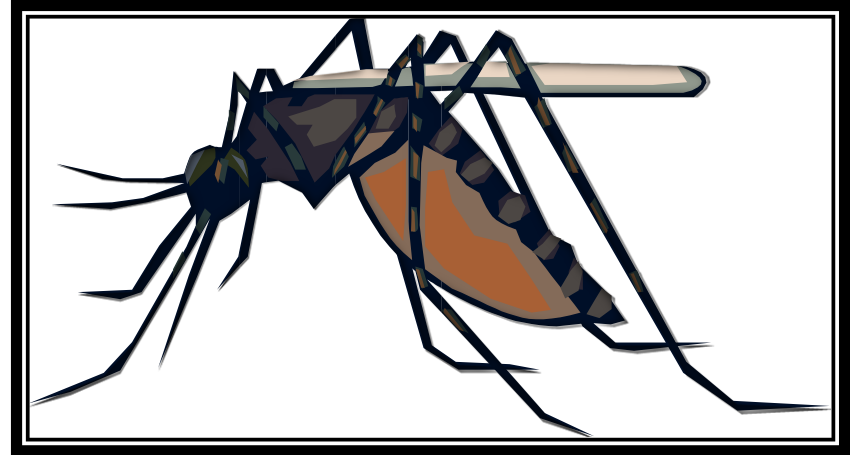
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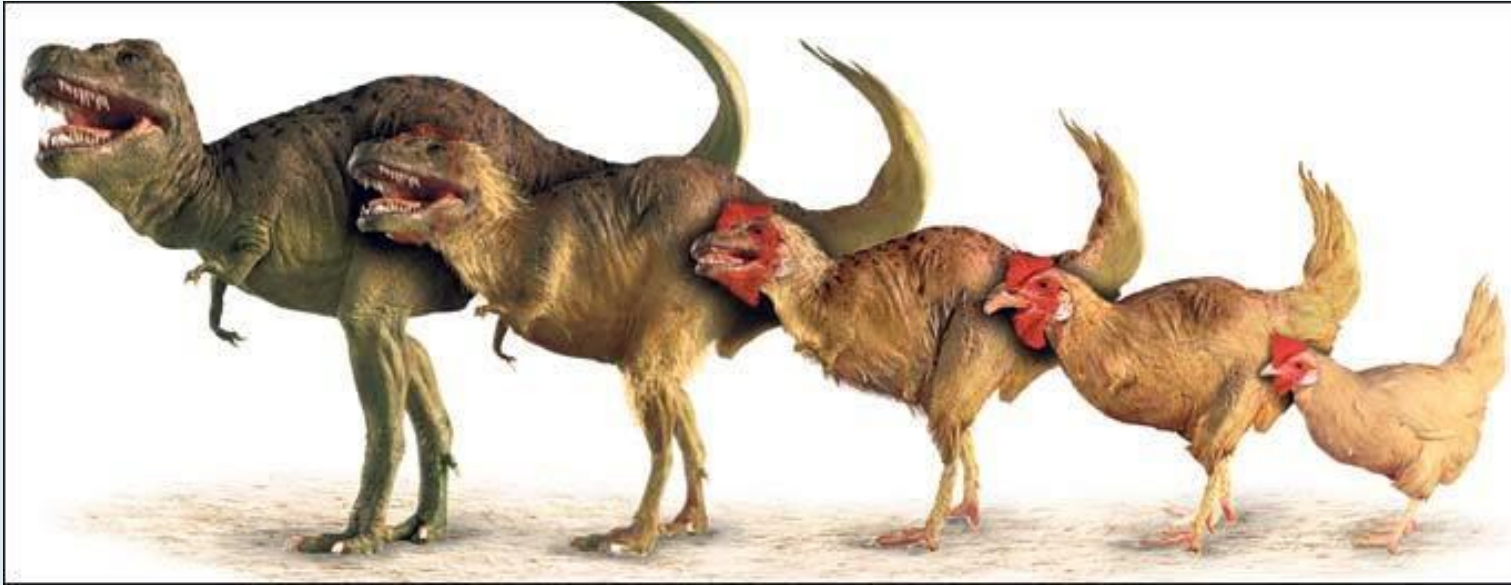
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Did any dinosaurs survive?

- There are some species of animals that are alive today that are directly related to the dinosaurs.
- They have adapted to live in a different environment and climate.
- We call this evolution.
- Can you guess which animals they may be?

Long lost ancestors...



T. rex



Chicken



Ostrich

