

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.

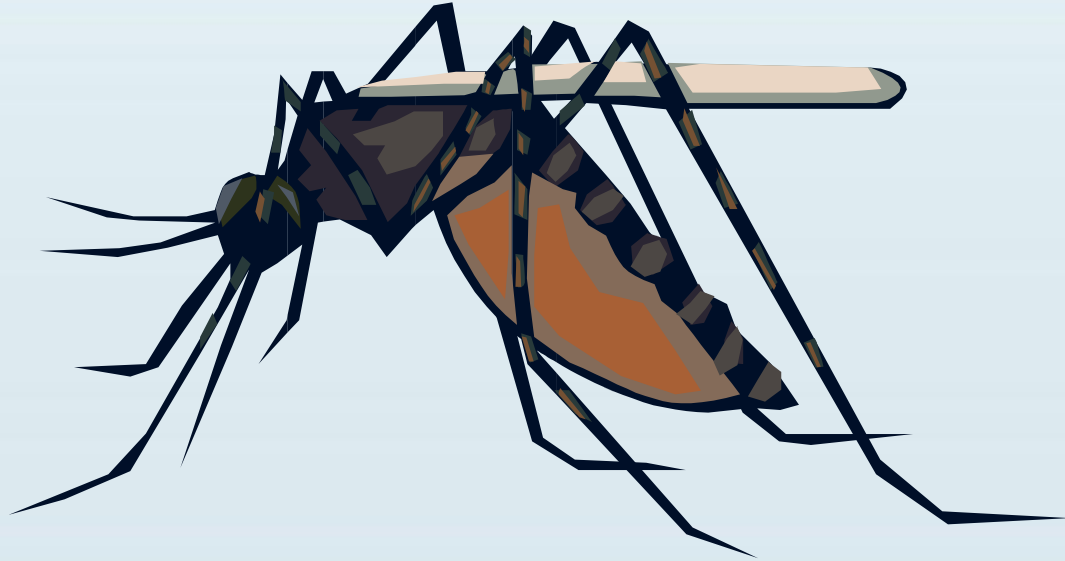


The tropical forests and plants could not survive the very cold temperatures.

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

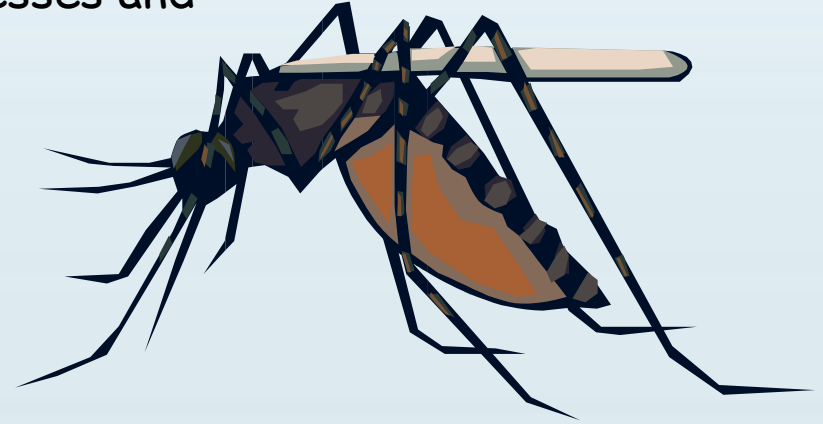


How did insects cause the extinction of dinosaurs?

Disease

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

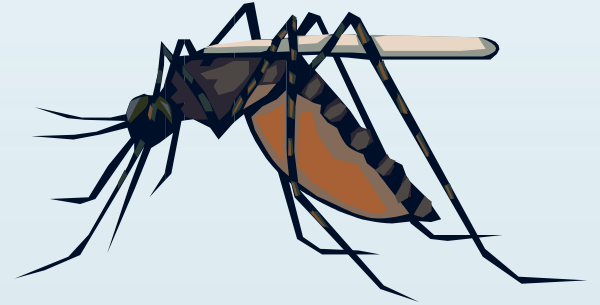
Some of the **smallest animals** caused disease to spread.



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!

Task 1: If you can, print out the information sheets about each theory. Cut out all the sentences and mix them together! Put the correct sentences with the correct theory. If you don't have a printer, there is a word document with all the statements - you could electronically colour code each statement depending on which theory it belongs to or just do it verbally.

Task 2: Design a poster to show at least **one theory** of how dinosaurs became extinct

Extension: Write an explanation for **how you** think the dinosaurs became extinct and why.

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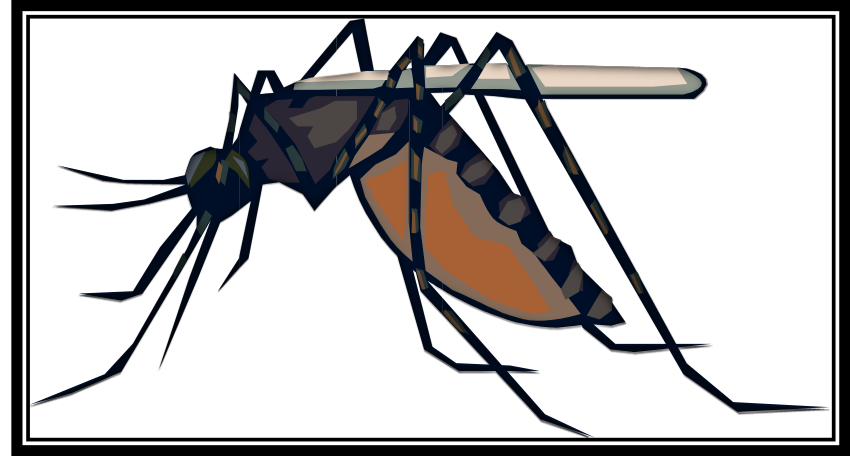
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