

Extinct!

Dinosaurs fell victim to a mass extinction

What possible causes were there?



Student Introduction

- ▶ A huge range of factors can determine the extinction of a species
- ▶ There may be abiotic or biotic factors involved
- ▶ Can you figure out what the likely cause of the dinosaurs' demise might have been?

A huge range of factors can cause a species to become extinct

Abiotic factors such as climate change, volcanic activity and fire can destroy a species, as can **biotic** factors such as disease and predation. As you look around the museum what evidence can you find as to current

scientists' thinking regarding dinosaur extinction?

Teaching resources by Education Destination Ltd.

What is Curriculum relevant materials supporting school trips to the Isle of Wight

Book today with Education Destination and get full access to this and hundreds more quality resources

www.edudest.uk

evolutionary time.

The disappearance of the dinosaurs is regarded as a mass extinction .

- ✓ Pollution
- ✓ Hunting
- ✓ Introduction of new species
- ✓ Habitat loss

Questions to consider (make notes in your books or below):

1. How long were the dinosaurs present on earth?

Look around the museum and find out when early dinosaur fossils suggest they first appeared on Earth and when they went extinct. Use these figures to work out how long they were present on Earth.

2. What are the implications of mass extinctions? What do scientists think happened to the surviving species? Explain why these species were then able to evolve.

3. What is a niche? A niche is the role that an organism has within an ecosystem. It refers to every aspect of an organism's involvement within a particular ecosystem, such as what it feeds on and what feeds on it. Use this information to explain why other animals may not have evolved whilst dinosaurs dominated the Earth.

Quiz

1. What term is used to describe a species that no longer exists?

2. What percentage of species are believed to have gone extinct since life emerged on Earth?

A - climate change

B - new predators

C - climate change and new predators

D - new disease

3. Which of these would not cause a

Teaching resources by Education Destination Ltd.

Curriculum relevant materials supporting school trips to the Isle of Wight

Book today with Education Destination and get full access to this and hundreds more quality resources

www.edudest.uk

4. What is the name given to scientists who study fossils?

5. Which of these best describes a fossil?

A - bones

B - dead animals

C - mineralised remains of organisms

D - rotting organisms

Considering extinction today

What do you consider to be the biggest risks to plant or animal species on Earth today?

Which plant/animal species do you consider to be most 'at risk'? Explain why.



102251

©2014 Education Destination www.educationdestination.co.uk
Images © Dinosaur Isle

