



Why did the
dinosaurs
die out?



Where Did Everybody Go?



You may have noticed that there are no dinosaurs around these days.

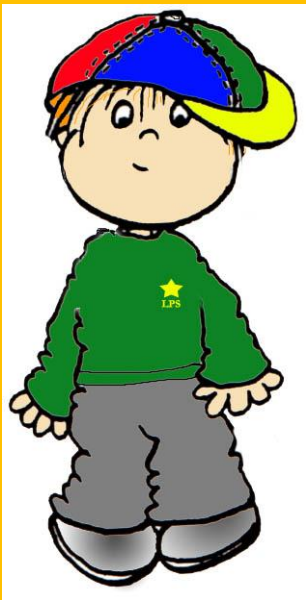
In fact, there haven't been any for 66 million years.

- The age of the dinosaurs lasted for about 165 million years.
- Then they all died out.
- When a group of animals die out we say that they became **extinct**.

- All that is left are fossils.



What happened to destroy
some of the biggest animals
that ever lived?



We are learning to ...

Identify why
the dinosaurs
may have died
out

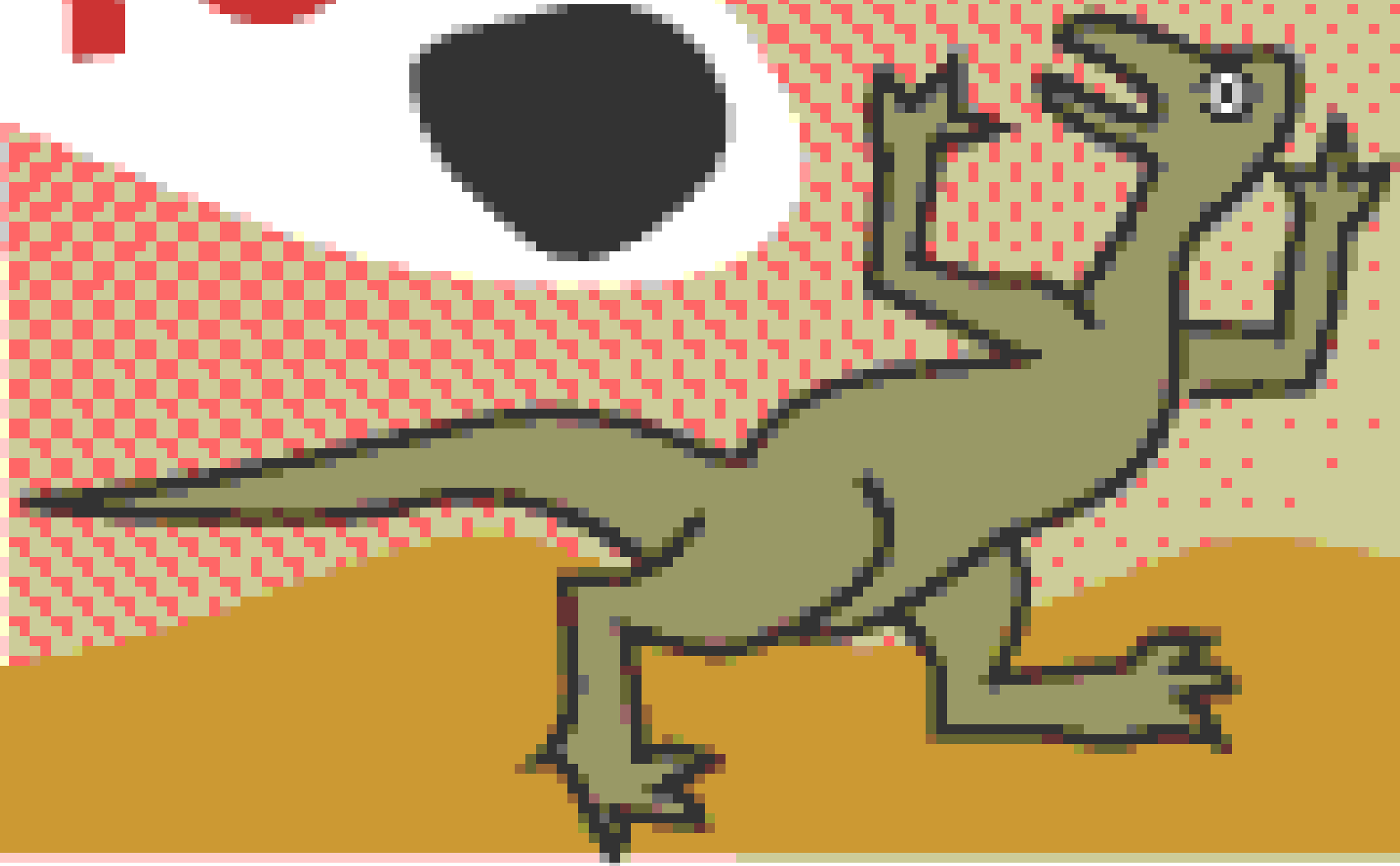
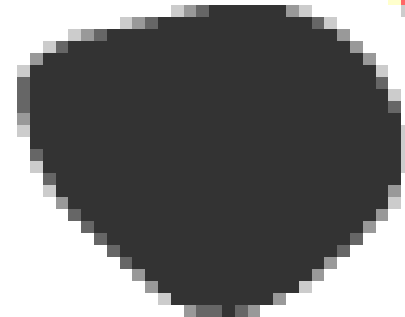


What I'm looking for...

**Design a poster showing
the possible causes of
extinction**

YOWW!

A Giant Asteroid!



One of the most well-known theories suggested for dinosaur extinction is the asteroid theory.

Many scientists think that 65 million years ago, a huge chunk of space rock smashed into Earth.

They think it hit Earth so hard that it was like an explosion.



The result of such an impact would be an enormous explosion that would throw dust clouds into the sky, darkening the planet. Massive forest fires, triggered by the hit, would add smoke to the sky.



Boom!

Another
Volcano
Erupts!



Some scientists suspect that volcanic activity may have caused the dinosaurs' death. In the several million years leading up to the extinction event, volcanoes in what is now India were extremely active.

Some scientists think that volcanoes could have erupted and choked the dinosaurs to death.



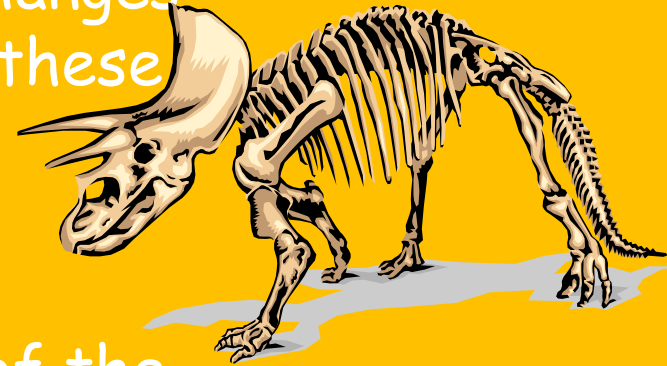
According to volcanologist Vincent Courtillot, these eruptions would have released climate-altering gases and materials into the air.

A cartoon illustration of a man in a suit and tie looking cold, with a large speech bubble containing the text 'Brrr! Climatic Changes'. The man is on the left, wearing a white shirt, a red tie, and a dark suit jacket. He has a pale, blue-tinted face and is looking towards the right. A large, white, jagged speech bubble originates from his mouth, containing the text 'Brrr!' in a large, yellow, pixelated font, and 'Climatic Changes' in a smaller, yellow, pixelated font below it. The background is a dark blue, pixelated pattern.

Brrr!

Climatic
Changes

Scientists believe that climatic changes might be responsible for most of these extinctions.



There is evidence that shows the temperature dropped at the end of the Mesozoic and the sea levels fell.

Such a sudden change in temperature might have affected the growth of plants which were at the root of the dinosaur's food chain.





Ah-choo!

Disease
Strikes

Other scientists think that some of the smallest animals may have been responsible for bringing an end to some of the largest.

During the late cretaceous period, the number of insects rapidly expanded. Many of these species were biting insects that carried new diseases.

Many of these bugs from that era have been preserved in amber. Evidence of disease, that could infect reptiles has been found.

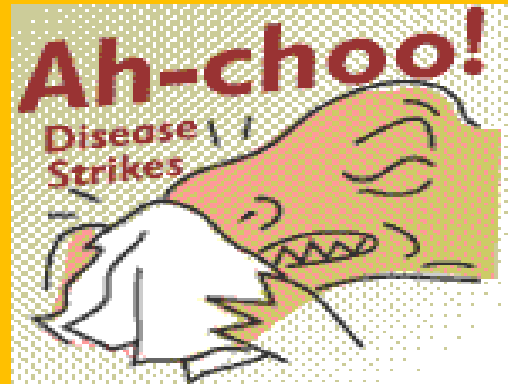
They also examined fossilized dinosaur dung finding diseases that might have made the Dinosaurs very ill. The dinosaurs probably got these bugs from insects that had been visiting dung piles and then transferred them on to the dinosaurs food.

The high temperatures and the flowering plants would have made the late cretaceous perfect conditions for an explosion in the number of insects and the illnesses carried.





Extinction



**What
do you
think?**