

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

THE LAST T-REX

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this activity is for students to illustrate the “Meteorite Hypothesis”, which is the leading theory that explains the extinction of the dinosaurs.

SUMMARY OF THE METEORITE HYPOTHESIS:

- A very large meteor collided with Earth.
- Dust and debris were then released into the atmosphere.
- The sun was blocked out.
- Plants died from a lack of photosynthesis.
- Plant-eating dinosaurs had no food and died.
- Meat-eating dinosaurs had no food and died.

PROOF OF THE METEORITE HYPOTHESIS:

- There is evidence of an impact (crater) near the town of Chicxulub, Mexico.
- The crater impact is 110 miles wide (diameter) and 6 miles deep.
- The crater was not detected until the 1970s because it was covered with .6 miles of sediment.
- The crater contains a lot of iridium, which is an element often found in meteors.
- The crater was formed 65-66 MYA (based on relative and absolute dating methods).
- The data from a chemical analysis of rocks indicate a temperature drop at this time.

FUN FACTS ABOUT DINOSAURS AND TYRANNOSAURUS REX:

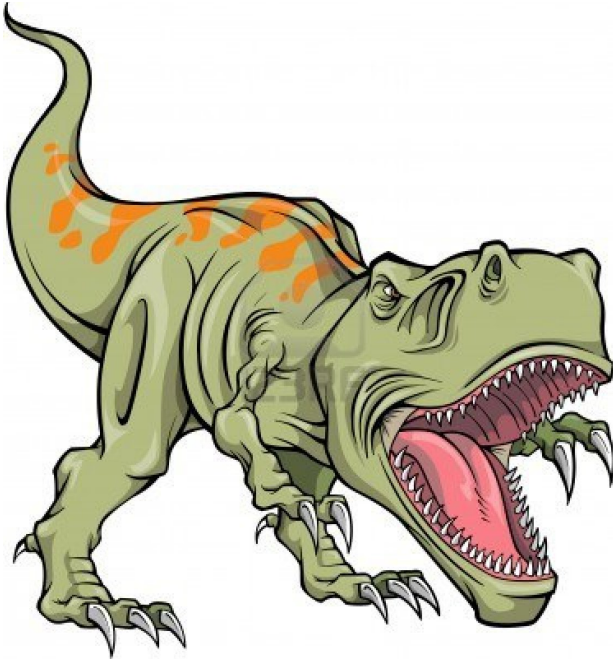
- Dinosaurs evolved from earlier reptiles approximately 230 MYA.
- Tyrannosaurus Rex means “tyrant lizard king” in Latin.
- Tyrannosaurus Rex evolved 67 MYA.
- All dinosaurs went extinct 65-66 MYA.

QUESTION TO PONDER:

A lot of people consider T-Rex to be the king of all the dinosaurs. Based on the dates listed above, do you **agree** or **disagree**? Explain your reasoning.

ACTIVITY:

Create a one-page colorful drawing that illustrates either the **SUMMARY** or the **PROOF** of the Meteorite Hypothesis. Although you do not need to do any research, you are allowed to do so if you feel it will enhance your illustration. This assignment will count as a homework grade.



Dinosaur Timeline

