

## EarthComm Earth System Evolution: Changing Life and Your Community, Activity 4

### This investigation will help you to:

- The Extinction Event at the End of the Mesozoic
- The Causes of Extinction
- To view information about paleoclimate before and after the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, visit the following web sites:
- To view information about organisms living before and after the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, visit the following web sites:
- To learn more about other mass-extinction events in Earth's history, visit the following web sites:

#### The Extinction Event at the End of the Mesozoic

- A Blast from the Past, National Museum of Natural History  
This site offers several pages about the mass extinction at the end the Cretaceous period (at the end of the Mesozoic Era) and the beginning of the Tertiary Period (early Cenozoic Era).

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#### The Causes of Extinction

- Chicxulub and the Cretaceous Tertiary Boundary, NASA/UA Space Imagery Center's Impact Cratering Series  
This site is under construction but it already has detailed information. In addition to a description of the asteroid hypothesis, the homepage links to information about local and global effects of the impact, plus a glossary under the Students and Teachers button.

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To view information about paleoclimate before and after the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, visit the following web sites:

- Cretaceous: Tectonics and Paleoclimate, Museum of Paleontology  
A description of the paleoclimate in the Late Cretaceous
- Late Cretaceous Climate versus Paleocene Climate, Paleomap Project  
Compare climate maps of the Late Cretaceous to the early Paleogene (Paleocene). View the entire list of climate maps.
- The Paleocene, National Museum of Natural History  
The paleoclimate plus flora and fauna that dominated the early Paleogene

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To view information about organisms living before and after the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, visit the following web sites:

- Cretaceous Period: Life, Museum of Paleontology  
The flora and fauna of the Late Cretaceous
- The End-Cretaceous (K-T) Extinction, Hooper Virtual Paleontology Museum  
Species effected by the catastrophic event that resulted in the mass extinction at the K-T boundary
- Paleocene Mammals of the World, Museum of Paleontology  
The first 10 million years of the age of mammals.

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To learn more about other mass-extinction events in Earth's history, visit the following web sites:

- **Mass Extinctions**, Hooper Virtual Paleontological Museum  
Read a short discussion about mass extinctions in general. At the bottom of the page, select between two different menus to find descriptions of mass extinctions through the Phanerozoic and PreCambrian Eons.
  - Main Page
  - Mass Extinctions of the Phanerozoic
  - Mass Extinctions of the Precambrian and Vendian
- Extinctions, About.com  
Interested in just browsing through different links on mass extinction. Try the selection under the Extinction section on About.com.

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