

GLOSSARY

TERTIARY = The first portion of the Cenozoic Era, it began 70 million years ago and lasted 68-1/2 million years.

PALEOCENE EPOCH = The first epoch of the Tertiary Period, the Paleocene began 70 million years ago and lasted for 10 million years.

EOCENE = The 2nd epoch of the Tertiary period. This was the great age of the mammals and saw great evolution of the horse.

OLIGOCENE = The Oligocene period, relating to an epoch between Eocene and Miocene times.

MIOCENE EPOCH = Fourth epoch of the Tertiary Period, the Miocene Epoch began 25 million years ago and lasted 13 million years.

PLIOCENE = The fifth and last epoch of the Tertiary Period, it began 12 million years ago and lasted 10-1/2 million years.

QUATERNARY PERIOD = The last 1-1/2 million years of earth history, divided into the Pleistocene and the Recent.

MAMMALS = A vertebrate animal characterized by warm blood, a covering of hair, live birth (two egg laying exceptions), and the ability to suckle its young.

MAMMOTH = An extinct elephant with woolly hair adapted to an arctic habitat. Pleistocene.

MASTODONS = Simple-toothed elephant like beasts distantly related to the Columbian mammoth, the mastodons had tusks in both upper and lower jaws; they were short legged, long-headed, heavy bodied browsers exterminated within the last few thousand years and possibly lasting among the Aztecs of Mexico until the time of Cortez. Miocene to Recent.

QUIZ

1) During the Mesozoic Era the climates was:

- A) Very cold - like the ice ages.
- B) Very warm - almost tropical.
- C) Exactly like it is today.
- D) Arid and desert-like.

2) A massive extinction event took place at the end of the Mesozoic era. Scientists believe this was the cause:

- A) A viral epidemic.
- B) A world climate change.
- C) An impact of a comet or meteorite with the earth.
- D) A great flood.

3) At the beginning of this Era, the land masses were joined together to form one large land mass called Pangaea:

- A) Paleozoic
- B) Mesozoic
- C) Cenozoic
- D) Cretaceous

4) After a huge impact of a meteorite or comet with the earth, there is a period of darkness and cold known as:

- A) Sudden impact
- B) Dark planet
- C) Nuclear winter
- D) Armageddon

5) A direct hit by a large meteorite in the ocean would:

- A) Not do any damage.
- B) Cause worldwide fires.
- C) Hurl water vapor into the air blocking off light from the sun for a long time.
- D) Kill all life on earth.

6) The following word means "middle like"

- A) Paleozoic
- B) Mesozoic
- C) Cenozoic
- D) Tectonics

7) The Mesozoic Era is divided into 3 periods:

- A) Alfa, chi and omega
- B) Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous
- C) Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian
- D) Permian, Carboniferous and Reptilian

8) The idea that the Earth's continents move is known as:

- A) Plate tectonics and continental drift
- B) Theory of Uniformitarianism
- C) Moh's theory
- D) Volcanic theory

9) Which geologic era saw the development of sea creatures such as corals, brachiopods and crinoids:

- A) Paleozoic
- B) Mesozoic
- C) Cretaceous
- D) Cenozoic

10) The "coal age" is also known as the:

- A) Pleistocene
- B) Silurian
- C) Carboniferous
- D) Tropical age

TEACHER'S ACTIVITIES:

Pre-Viewing Activities:

1. Discuss when dinosaurs might have lived. Were men around when they lived? What about movies showing humans attacking these dinosaurs?
2. Decorate the bulletin board with various dinosaur examples such as Stegosaurus, Brontosaurus, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops and Iguanodon.

Post-Viewing Activities:

1. Show the major types of dinosaurs: Ornithischia and Saurischia, and their evolutionary tree.
2. Discuss where in America dinosaurs would most likely be found today. If available, bring in samples of dinosaur bones. Have models and pictures available in the classroom.

Home Activities:

1. Select one type of dinosaur and write a report on where it lived, its environment, food sources, etc.
2. Read a book on dinosaurs. Find out what kind of dinosaurs can be found at Dinosaur National Monument, the Smithsonian, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), or a local museum or geology department.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) B
- 2) C
- 3) B
- 4) C
- 5) C
- 6) B
- 7) B
- 8) A
- 9) A
- 10) C

Physical Geography II Series

LIFE IN MESOZOIC TIMES

KG1174VD

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program explores the major life forms which lived during the MESOZOIC ERA, that time span from 245 million years ago to 65 million years ago. At the beginning of the Mesozoic the major land masses were joined together into a supercontinent called Pangaea so animals could easily move from place to place. Temperatures were much warmer than they are today and even the ice caps at the north and south poles were absent. In this environment life flourished and we saw the development of huge, reptile-like animals such as the dinosaurs. But life during Mesozoic times also occurred in the oceans and soon new plant forms--including the flowering plants began to spread across the earth. About 65 million years ago most of the larger dinosaurs vanished and this program helps to explain why this "extinction event" took place.

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