

**Instructions:** Choose the correct options to complete the text.

It just may \_\_\_\_\_ the biggest murder mystery in history. How did the dinosaurs, some of the biggest and certainly one of the most ferocious species this planet has ever seen, \_\_\_\_\_ extinct?

The detective who \_\_\_\_\_ the case is/was Walter Alvarez. While doing research on the K-T boundary in an unusual quarry in Italy's Apennine Mountains, he \_\_\_\_\_ an abundance of fossilized remains of tiny sea creatures in the limestone of the Cretaceous period, but not the Tertiary period. The scientist \_\_\_\_\_: Could this \_\_\_\_\_ the result of a mass extinction event?

His suspicions \_\_\_\_\_ when he \_\_\_\_\_ that the dividing line of clay was dated around the same time that the dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ extinct. Also interesting were the off-the-charts levels of iridium, an element that \_\_\_\_\_ rare on Earth, but common in meteors.

#### **Decades later, a break in the case.**

Finally, in 1991, geologists \_\_\_\_\_ upon a site that showed what appeared to be the sediment from a massive tsunami 65 million years ago. They \_\_\_\_\_ that it \_\_\_\_\_ from a gigantic crater in the sea discovered near Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. All the puzzle pieces \_\_\_\_\_ into place. Alvarez's hypothesis about a cataclysmic event \_\_\_\_\_ out to be right.

That K-T Boundary, revealing the impact of a colossal meteor, was bad news for the dinosaurs — and an estimated 75 percent of all species on Earth. But this cataclysmic event also \_\_\_\_\_ great conditions for mammals who \_\_\_\_\_ the proper DNA qualities to adapt and thrive.

Adapted from <https://www.bighistoryproject.com/chapters/3#extinctions>