Module 1 – Mass Extinction

Student:	

What happened to animals that lived long ago?

Mass Extinction

Interesting Fact

Periodically, every 50 to 100 million years or so, the Earth has experienced mass extinctions. There have been at least ten extinction events in the past. Generally, scientists think that the extinctions resulted from drastic environmental changes that followed events such as meteorites, comet impacts, or massive volcanic eruptions.

Mass extinction is the disappearance of a large number of the Earth's species. The most devastating extinction was at the end of the Permian period; an estimated 95% of marine species and 60% of insects disappeared about 245 million years ago. Huge volcanic eruptions continued for thousands of years and caused destruction and dust that blocked the sun. It caused global cooling that froze the water's surface.

The most famous mass extinction was at the end of the Cretaceous period when the dinosaurs and many other plants and animals disappeared and up to 75% of all marine life died. It occurred 65 million years ago. A theory says that a big asteroid with a diameter of 10km hit the planet and created a giant cloud of rocks, dust, and sulfur in the air that blocked the sunlight. Catastrophic climate change did not let dinosaurs survive.

Source: https://bit.ly/2Z3oyLy



Meteorite falling to Earth.

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Based on the text, check (✓) the correct answer.

1. **What was the most devastating mass extinction that our planet faced?**

	a) Permian extinction
	b) Jurassic extinction
	c) Cretaceous extinction

2. **What caused the dinosaurs' extinction?**

	a) Volcanic eruptions
	b) Cold weather
	c) A meteorite

3. **When did dinosaurs go extinct?**

	a) 245 million years ago
	b) 50 million years ago
	c) 65 million years ago

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