

Evolution

Brainpop—Extinction

Name:

Period:



Watch the Brainpop, then fill in the blanks using the words provided in the word bank below each paragraph. You can also use Chapter 10 of your book to help you.

About 65 million years ago, all of the _____ on Earth went extinct. Extinction is what happens when an entire species _____ out. A species is any group of organisms that shares enough common _____ to breed together. You couldn't _____ a cat and a dog because they are members of _____ species. There are _____ of different species living on Earth today.

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_____ can happen in several ways. Mass extinction occurs when a _____ percentage of all the species on Earth becomes extinct in a relatively _____ period of time. Scientists believe that mass extinctions happen because of sudden environmental factors, like major changes in _____. The loss of most of the _____ was actually part of a mass extinction. It was likely the result of an environmental disaster caused at least partly by a _____ hitting the Earth 65 million years ago. Somewhere around _____ of all species on Earth died off when the dinosaurs did.



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Species can also go extinct from _____ evolutionary pressure. Evolution is the process by which species _____ over many generations. According to the theory of evolution, all living things are constantly _____ for resources like food, water, and space. When a type of organism loses out on these life essentials, its species eventually goes _____. Human activities like industry, farming, forestry, and commercial fishing put a lot of _____ on the environment. In the 1970's, the use of the pesticide DDT nearly drove the _____ to extinction in North America. When a species dies out, it can affect the entire _____. Think about food chains—if a plant species dies off, all the animals that eat it will have to scramble for different food, and some of them will die off, and then the animals that eat those smaller animals will be _____ too. Humans depend on other life forms for all kinds of things, like food, clothing, medicine, and shelter. If we put too much pressure on the environment, we might drive the organisms we _____ on to extinction.

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Look at the cartoon from the video. What does a museum have to do with extinction?