

What Do Fossils Tell about Extinction?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Extinct Animals: Saurischian Dinosaurs

- The Saurischian or **lizard-hipped** dinosaurs were much _____ the bird-hipped dinosaurs.
- Sauropods were among the _____ lizard-hipped dinosaurs.
- One sauropod, Seismosaur, achieved a length of _____, making it the largest land vertebrate that walked on Earth.
- About _____ species have been identified.
- _____ were another group of lizard-hipped dinosaurs.
- Most of these animals ate _____.
- All had long tails that were thoughts to have been used for _____.
- Theropods are believed to have walked on their strong _____ legs and use their front limbs for grasping.
- Theropods included the _____ tyrannosaurs as well as the relatively small but ferocious raptors.
- They were _____ all giants, including the turkey sized Compsognathus, which was one of the smallest dinosaur known, and a diverse group of medium-sized cousins.

Extinct Animals: Marine Reptiles & Pterosaurs

- Long-necked marine _____ called plesiosaurs also appear in the Mesozoic layers.
- At _____ long, they were as long as 5-story building.
- Ichthyosaurs were even longer, up to _____ long.
- _____ reptiles called pterosaurs flew in the skies above them
- Some were no longer than a sparrow, while others were the size of an _____ with a wingspan of up to 40 ft.
- Marine reptiles have frequently, and _____, been called dinosaurs.
- Though they have been found in the same part of the geologic column, they _____ from dinosaurs in several important details.
- No marine reptile had a skeleton with a _____ shaped like either of the main groups of dinosaurs, and their limbs were modified flippers or paddled, somewhat like fins of marine mammals today.
- _____ are not considered dinosaurs either.

- They had hollow _____ bones, long necks, short bodies, and forelimbs that took the form of wings.
- Their wings were _____ and made of a skin membrane like the wings of a bat.
- Whether they flew by flapping their wings or gliding through the air is _____.
- On the ground, pterosaurs may have walked or crawled, or they have been _____, walking on only their hind limbs.

Extinct Animals: Megafauna

- Another group of extinct animals, called the _____, included large animals that lived during the Cenozoic Era.
- This group of animals included _____, birds, and reptiles.
- Birds called _____ were nearly twice as tall as an average human.
- Although they could not fly, fossilized footprints suggest that moa could walk up to _____.
- Another flightless _____ bird belonged to the Aepyornis species.
- These birds were more than _____ tall and could have weighed nearly 1100 lbs.
- The giant ground _____ was about the size of a black bear, but had claws that could be 20 in. long.
- These sloths did not have front teeth, but were still able to eat various types of _____, including willows and cacti.
- Mastodons and woolly _____ are two other Megafauna.
- _____ had large tusks and teeth.
- They stood about 10 ft. tall and weighed about _____.
- Woolly mammoths were much _____ and probably weighed around 17,600 lbs.
- At the shoulder, they measured _____ tall and had long, curved tusks, which were often 13-16 ft. long.
- Several extinct _____ belonged to the Megafauna.
- Two species of giant _____ that lived in North America measured nearly 8 ft. long
- Another mega-rodent was the North American _____ capybara that lived in Florida, South Carolina, Texas, and Arizona.
- Capybaras were the worlds' _____ rodents.
- They weighted about _____ (which is nearly twice the size of the capybaras that live today)

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- The largest animal in the Megafauna was a hornless _____ called Paraceratherium.
- It was probably the largest _____ to have ever lived on land.
- Based on fossil finds, an adult could have been 18 ft. tall at the shoulders and _____ long.