

Chapter 12

Text Pages 334–336

STUDY GUIDE

● Extinction of Dinosaurs

Use the words in the boxes to fill in the blanks.

dominant

mammals

160 million

intelligent

Dinosaurs were abundant on Earth's land for about _____ years. These fast, agile, and _____ animals were the _____ land animals. Only after the end of their rule did another class of animals, _____, increase.

Alvarez
iridium
collisiondinosaurs
dust
theoryextinct
meteoritewestern
66 million

The remains of _____ have been found in the _____ part of the United States. These great animals have been _____ for about _____ years. Two scientists, Luis and Walter _____, have uncovered traces of _____ in rock layers. They now think they know why the animals died. Their _____ is that Earth and a _____ from space had a _____. This raised _____, which dimmed the sun's light. The meteorite's impact would also account for the iridium deposit.

mineral

photosynthesis

temperature

volcanic activity

The meteorite collision has been rejected by some scientists who think increased _____ is a more likely theory. Either event would explain the presence of the rare _____ iridium and would have resulted in a dimming of the sun. This would kill plants that depend on the sun for _____ and would lower Earth's _____.