

English

Comprehension Information Text

What do I do?

In a comprehension assessment, you will be given a text to read, followed by questions. This text could be from a wide range of styles. It could be a story, poem or a non-fiction passage, such as an information text. Depending on the style of exam paper, you may be asked to write a full answer or choose from a number of multiple options.

Top Tips!

- Read the passage first to get a feel of the text.
- Try to imagine the text in your head and picture what it might look like.
- If you have read the text before or know a little about the subject, try not to rely on what you have read previously. Just answer the questions given and rely only on the text in front of you.

What skills do I need to improve?

Reading information text types will help! Try to read a variety of different topics.

The subject of the following information text is about 'The Mesozoic Era'.

Information texts help us to understand the world around us and the topics are limitless. You could look at geographical locations, an event in history or anything in our modern world that you'd like to find out more about.

Try to take a look at: newspaper and magazine articles, blogs, biographies, essays, instruction manuals and reports.

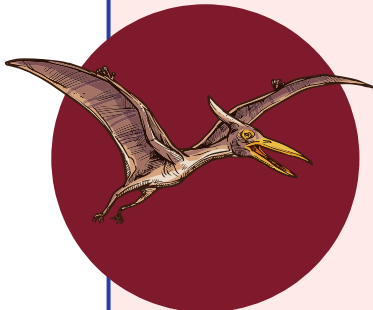
The Mesozoic Era

TRIASSIC PERIOD

252 to 201 million years ago
252,000,000 - 201,000,000 years ago

During these millions of years, dinosaurs started to dominate the planet. The climate was hot and dry and much of the land was made up of vast deserts. The continents of the world were known as a giant super-continent called Pangea. Plant life was largely made up of conifers and some trees reached up to 30 metres in height.

Paleontologists have discovered from fossils that the first dinosaurs lived around 240 million years ago. Dinosaurs such as the *Tanystropheus* lived - they had a neck that was as long as their body and tail combined! It wasn't until around 228 million years ago that the first flying reptiles appeared, these are known as pterosaurs.



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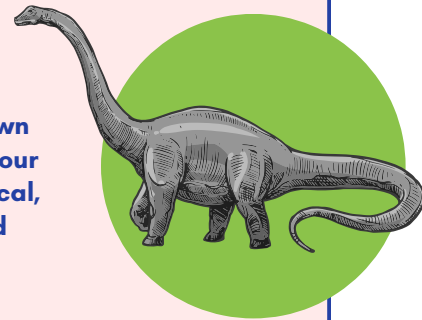
The Mesozoic Era

JURASSIC PERIOD

201 to 145 million years ago
201,000,000 - 145,000,000 years ago

Remember Pangea from the Triassic period? Well, that's now split in two - known as Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south. It's still quite different to our seven continents we see on Earth today. The climate was warm, wet and tropical, allowing more plant life to grow. Vegetation during this time really thrived and this provided lots of food for plant-eating dinosaurs, known as herbivores.

Dinosaurs such as the Stegosaurus, Diplodocus and Brachiosaurs lived during this time and they meant business! The Brachiosaurus stood at 16 metres tall and 27 metres long and weighed around 80 tonnes (which is around 13 times heavier than the famous Tyrannosaurus Rex - he's up in the next period!)



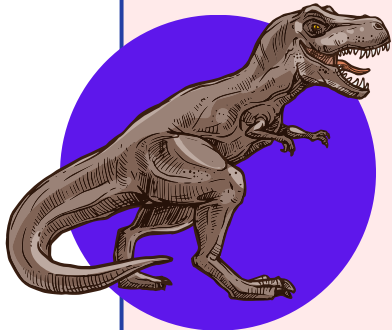
CRETACEOUS PERIOD

145 to 66 million years ago
145, 000,000 - 66,000,000 years ago

There was a lot of change during these millions of years. As the first flowers bloomed, the last of the dinosaurs were wiped out. It's the longest time period of the three and was when dinosaurs such as the Tyrannosaurus Rex, the Velociraptor and the Triceratops ruled the land.

Alongside the dinosaurs, reptiles and amphibians we know today lived among them - frogs, snakes, crocodiles and turtles. The shallow seas became homes to starfish, coral reefs, rays and sharks. Life was becoming more diverse and new species were forming.

It's not known for certain how the magnificent dinosaurs were wiped out but some scientists believe that it's likely to be due to a comet, asteroid or meteor strike.



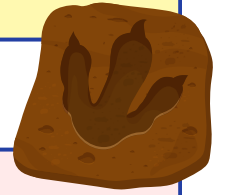
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What do I do?

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Questions



1 What is a scientist who studies fossils also known as? (1 mark)

2 Name the three periods of time that the Mesozoic Era consists of. (1 mark)

3 Looking at the text as a whole, how have the positions Earth's continents changed over time? (3 marks)

4 How would you describe the climate during the Jurassic period and what effect did this have on the Earth and its inhabitants at the time? (2 marks)

5 Which creatures lived in the sea during the Cretaceous period? (1 mark)

6 According to the text, how do we think the dinosaurs became extinct? (2 marks)

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Answers

1 What is a scientist who studies fossils also known as? (1 mark)

A scientist who studies fossils is also known as a Paleontologist.

2 Name the three periods of time that the Mesozoic Era consists of. (1 mark)

The Mesozoic Era is made up of three periods of time: the Triassic period, the Jurassic period and the Cretaceous period.

3 Looking at the text as a whole, how have the positions Earth's continents changed over time? (3 marks)

During the Triassic period, all of the Earth's continents were joined together in a large landmass called 'Pangea'. However, over time, these landmasses moved apart and by the Jurassic period, the large continent was split into two - the southern continent known as 'Gondwana' and the northern continent known as 'Laurasia'. It's evident that these continents continued to separate, as today, Earth is made up of seven continents.

4 'How would you describe the climate during the Jurassic period and what effect did this have on the Earth and it's inhabitants at the time? (2 marks)

The climate during the Jurassic period was 'warm', 'wet' and 'tropical', this allowed more plant life to grow, providing plentiful food for plant-eating dinosaurs.

5 Which creatures lived in the sea during the Cretaceous period? (1 mark)

Creatures such as: starfish, rays and sharks lived in the seas during the Cretaceous period, along with marine life such as coral reefs.

6 According to the text, how do we think the dinosaurs became extinct? (2 marks)

Scientists think that the dinosaurs may have become extinct due to a 'comet', 'asteroid' or 'meteor' hitting Earth.