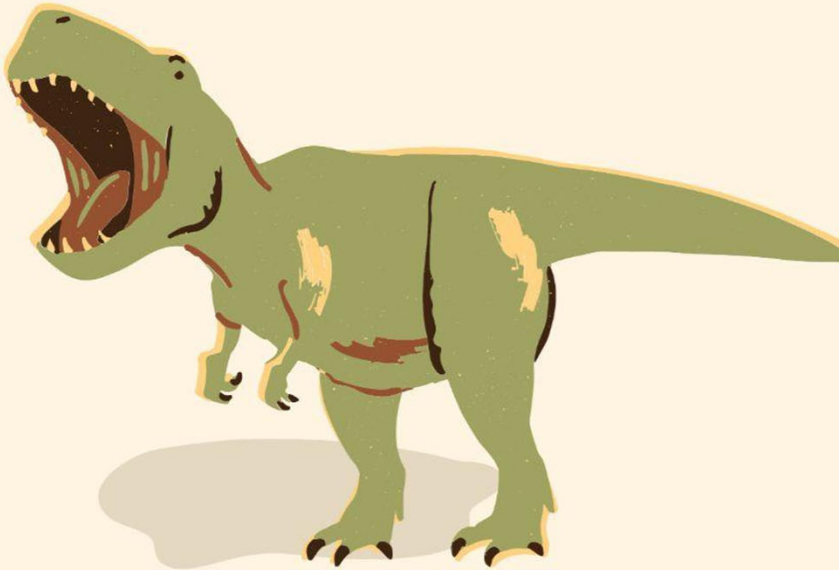
What really killed the Dinosaurs ?

It wasn't just the asteroid!

By Ishitha Tarlada G:7

Introduction

Imagine a world teeming with dinosaurs—massive, majestic creatures roaming the Earth for millions of years. Then, about 66 million years ago, everything changed in a heartbeat. We often hear that a colossal asteroid struck our planet, leading to their extinction. But what if I told you that the truth is far more complicated and fascinating?

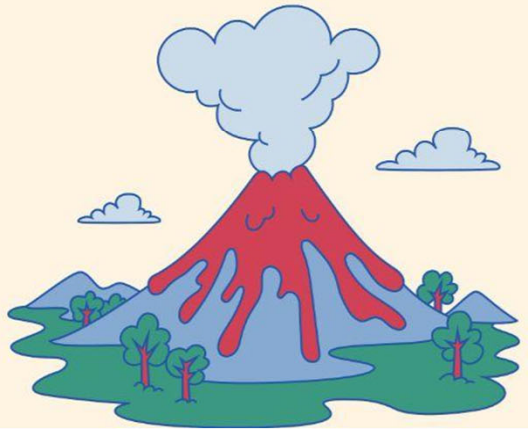


The Asteroid Impact

It struck near what we now call the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, creating the Chicxulub crater, which is about 150 kilometers wide. This impact unleashed energy which is equivalent to billions of atomic bombs. Wildfires raging across continents, tsunamis crashing into coastlines, and a "nuclear winter" covering the planet in darkness. Studies suggest that temperatures during the time dropped dramatically—by as much as 10 degrees Celsius.

Volcanic Activity : The Deccan Traps

Around the same time, the Deccan Traps in what we now know as India erupted with astonishing fury , forming one of the largest volcanic regions on Earth. These eruptions released over a million cubic kilometers of lava and emitted significant amounts of sulfur dioxide, leading to acid rain and climate cooling over a million years. This resulted in a toxic atmosphere and familiar landscape was turned into an unrecognizable mass of land



Climate change: The perfect disaster

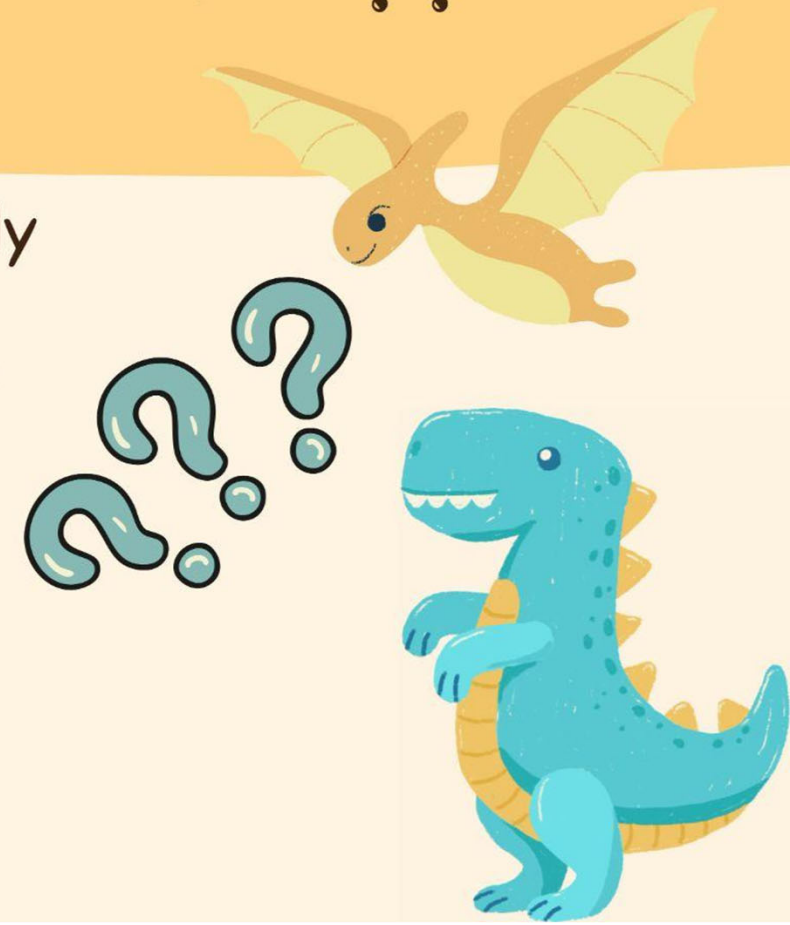
The asteroid impact and the volcanic eruptions didn't happen on their own, together, they created a "perfect disaster" of problems for the Earth's ecosystems. With sunlight blocked for a long time, plants couldn't photosynthesize, which hurt the food supply for many animals. Herbivores struggled to find enough to eat, and soon the carnivores that depended on them faced the same fate. Scientists estimate that about 75% of all species went extinct during this time.

Ecosystem collapse

The combination of all these factors led to widespread ecosystem collapse. With the loss of plants and key animal species, entire food webs disintegrated. Think about how interconnected these ecosystems are; if one part fails, it can lead to a chain reaction.

What does all of this mean ??

The extinction of the dinosaurs wasn't merely a result of a single cataclysm; it was a symphony of events—an intricate dance of cosmic forces and earthly changes. Isn't it captivating to think about how interconnected all life is? Each event influenced the other, creating a web of survival and extinction that shaped our planet's history




Thank you !!
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