



The Day the Dinosaurs Died

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Science
Grades 6-8



Introduction

In this lesson, students will create a theory as to what happened on the day the dinosaurs died. Was it an asteroid? Did an earthquake take them out? Or was it something stranger, like another being from outer space? Let the imagination run wild as students describe what that day was like and why they think that's what happened. Emphasis should be on introducing a claim and organizing the writing in a way that provides reasoning and evidence (whether that is speculated or not).

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1.a](#)

- Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly

Materials Needed

- *Where Did All the Dinosaurs Go?* By Russell Roberts
- iPad
- Paper and pencil

Procedure

1. Either as a whole class or partnering up and using the app Epic, students will read the book *Where Did All the Dinosaurs Go?* After reading, the teacher will bring the students back together. "What were some theories in the book as to what happened to the dinosaurs?" After students have answered and listed several, ask students what other things could have caused the dinosaurs to become extinct.
2. "Today, you are going to create a short piece of writing that tells what happened to the dinosaurs. What was their last day like? What was it that made them extinct? The goal of this writing is not only to generate a theory, but to focus on stating that theory and providing evidence and ideas as to why that theory makes sense.
3. Model for the class what it looks like to state a theory and provide evidence. "If I choose to write about how the dinosaurs became extinct from an earthquake, I should state that by saying 'I believe the dinosaurs became extinct from an earthquake.' That way the reader is clear on your theory. After that, you should provide three or more reasons in the following three paragraphs explaining evidence or ideas as to why you believe that happened.

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Evaluation

Students should develop a theory, have the following three paragraphs each give an example of why that theory makes sense, and have correction capitalization and punctuation. Students will turn in their writing to be graded.