THE Great Disappearance

The temperature of the Earth's core is estimated to be 7000°C.

Find the extinction words in the puzzle. Once you've found all the words, the leftover letters make a poem. Take the spare letters, in the order they are written, and fill in theblanks at the bottom of the page. (The very last letter, z, is not part of the poem.)

N D I O R E T S A W H A T B E S
O C A T M E O E F T H E D I U C
I N O S E A U R S S I S U P N L
T K N O W C N A L A L T E H A I
A T R E M A T I N S E R O F E M
I T H E I R E O X I N S S T K A
D E N V O L C A N O E S I C A T
A E A R E B O N V I E S F D U E
R O U N D I N A T H C E E A Q S
T A N O I T A V R A T S N D H T
N I A R D I C A H E W E S T T T
T C E F F E E S U O H N E E R G
H E F O S S I L S D O R E S A T
C O N C E A L I N G F R O M E A
L L T H E C A U S E O F T H E I
R F A L L C R E T A C E O U S Z

ASTEROID
EARTHQUAKE
VOLCANOES

RADIATION
CLIMATE
DISEASE

TECTONICS
SUPERNOVA
CRETACEOUS

STARVATION
GREENHOUSE EFFECT
ACID RAIN

○○○○ ○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○
○○○○○○○○○ ○○
○○○○○○○; ○○○ ○○○○
○○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○○○
○○○○○○○○○ ○○○ ○○○○○.
○○○○○ ○○ ○○○ ○○○○
○○○ ○○○ ○○○○, ○○○
○○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○○,
○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○ ○○○,
○○○ ○○○○○ ○○
○○○○○ ○○○○.

RSM ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

Grades 9–12 | Earth Sciences Gallery

1. At the entrance to the gallery there is a sculpture on the wall. What do you think the artwork represents? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. All dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years ago except for the avian dinosaurs (birds). Look around the CN *T. rex* gallery and gather evidence that T.rex and other theropod dinosaurs are related to birds. Here is a hint: can you make a wish on a *T. rex* like you might on a certain turkey bone? _____

_____

3. What area of North America was covered by the shallow, warm ancient sea in the Cretaceous Period? _____

_____

4. In the mososaur diorama, what ancient creature resembles a modern day creature? _____

5. Look at how the colouring of the Mosasaur and the Plesiosaur has been done in this exhibit. Since we don't know for sure the colours or patterns on marine reptiles from long ago why do you think the colours shown were chosen? Why are these creatures darker and mottled on their backs and lighter on the underside? _____

_____

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_____

6. If you were a palaeontologist and found the *Thescelosaurus* would you be able to identify it immediately? When palaeontologists uncover a complete skeleton that has remained in the same position as when the animal died, they call it an "articulated skeleton." Is this an articulated skeleton? What steps would you take to identify this skeleton? _____

_____

_____

_____

7. What has to happen for a bone to become a fossil? _____

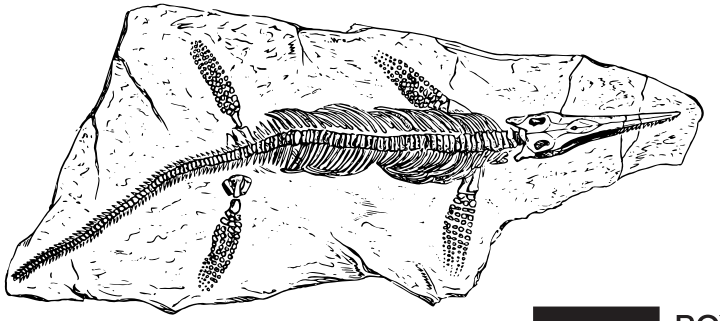
_____

_____

8. Why does *Triceratops* have a chunk gone from its frill? _____

_____

_____



RSM ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

9. After the disappearance of the dinosaurs came the Tertiary (now called Paleogene) Period. What natural occurrences took place in Saskatchewan to lead to the growth in size and numbers of the mammals? (hint: Palaeontologists aren't even certain of the reason for this). _____

_____

_____

_____

10. How tall was the early horse? _____

_____

11. The ancestors of the mastodon entered North America 14 million years ago from Asia. How did they cross into North America?

_____

_____

_____

_____

12. How can one determine the direction of ice movement by looking at a drumlin? _____

_____

_____

13. What did the South Saskatchewan river originate as? _____

_____

_____

14. Push the start button on the glacier diorama and answer the following question: What other glacial feature, other than drumlins, shows the path of ice flow? _____

15. What resource formed during the Paleocene Epoch and what was the source of the resource? What mammal can be seen in the mural from this time period? _____

_____

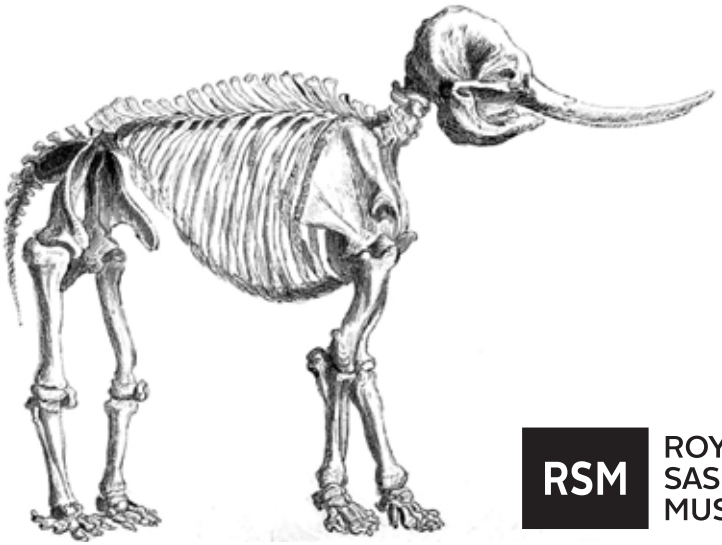
_____

_____

16. Compare the fossil molar from the mastodon (located across from the mastodon diorama) and the fossil molar from the mammoth. How do their differences indicate a difference in diet?_____

_____

_____

_____

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