

## Life in the Mesozoic Era homework

1. Briefly summarize the evidence for and against the hypothesis that a meteorite impact caused Cretaceous mass extinctions. Include at least two pieces of evidence used for either hypothesis. You can use your book as a source, but there are some very good online sources too. Of notable interest:

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/a.buckley/dino.htm>

This web site presents both hypotheses but mainly supports the impact theory.

A good summary is at:

[http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/101/11/3753?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=dinosaur+extinction&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1080318295194\\_4657&stored\\_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&volume=101&resourcetype=1](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/101/11/3753?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=dinosaur+extinction&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1080318295194_4657&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&volume=101&resourcetype=1)

For a very highly charged website supporting the volcanic hypothesis for extinction visit:

[http://filebox.vt.edu/artsci/geology/mclean/Dinosaur\\_Volcano\\_Extinction/](http://filebox.vt.edu/artsci/geology/mclean/Dinosaur_Volcano_Extinction/)

and see how personal scientific research can be!

2. Briefly (and not too technically) list and describe the three skeletal changes that needed to occur for reptiles to evolve to mammals. These are the main distinctions between the two groups of animals.

3. What are the 2 main theories that scientists maintain for the evolution of birds? What are the pros and cons of these theories? Recent dinosaur DNA evidence links the dinosaurs to what modern animal?