



Final Activity

You are a paleontologist for the National Park Service. You have been asked to plan an expedition to uncover new evidence as to why the dinosaurs went extinct. Before you go, you must write a plan for your expedition that follows the outline below.

1. Write a brief outline describing your theory of why the dinosaurs went extinct. You can create your own theory, or describe theories currently being tested by other paleontologists.
2. List some of the existing evidence that paleontologists have already found that supports your theory of why the dinosaurs went extinct.
3. To support your theory, you will be looking for new evidence in the fossil record. What are you going to look for, and why will that support your theory.
4. To which park are you going? What other fossils have been found there? Why do you think you will find fossil evidence there?
5. Outline how you will use geologic maps and other resources to plan where you are going to dig. What age and type of rock will you be excavating in?

Adaptation for the lower grades: Students write a short description of one theory of why dinosaurs went extinct, including a list of existing evidence that supports the theory, and appropriate maps, timelines or other graphics to illustrate the theory and evidence.