

Question of the Day

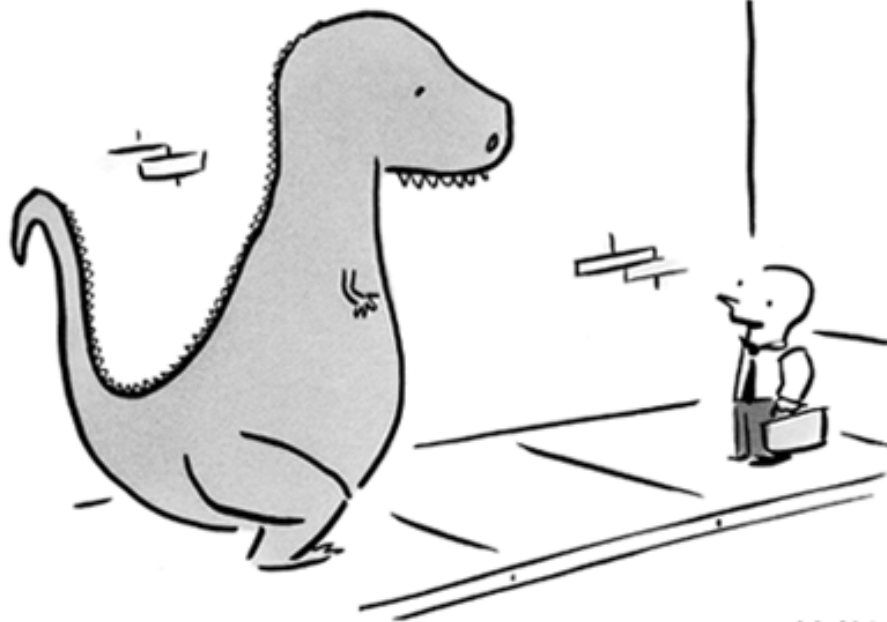
- How old is the Earth?



A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a large, weathered animal skull lies on the cracked, sandy ground. The middle ground shows a vast, flat desert plain with scattered rocks and sparse, dry vegetation. In the background, a range of dark, rugged mountains stretches across the horizon under a cloudy sky. The word "EXTINCTION" is overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters across the center of the image.

EXTINCTION

What is Extinction?



"Tom?! Tom, is that you?! You old rascal,
I thought you were extinct!"

- A situation in which a species no longer has any known living individuals.
- What are some reasons a species would go extinct?



Background Extinction vs Mass Extinction

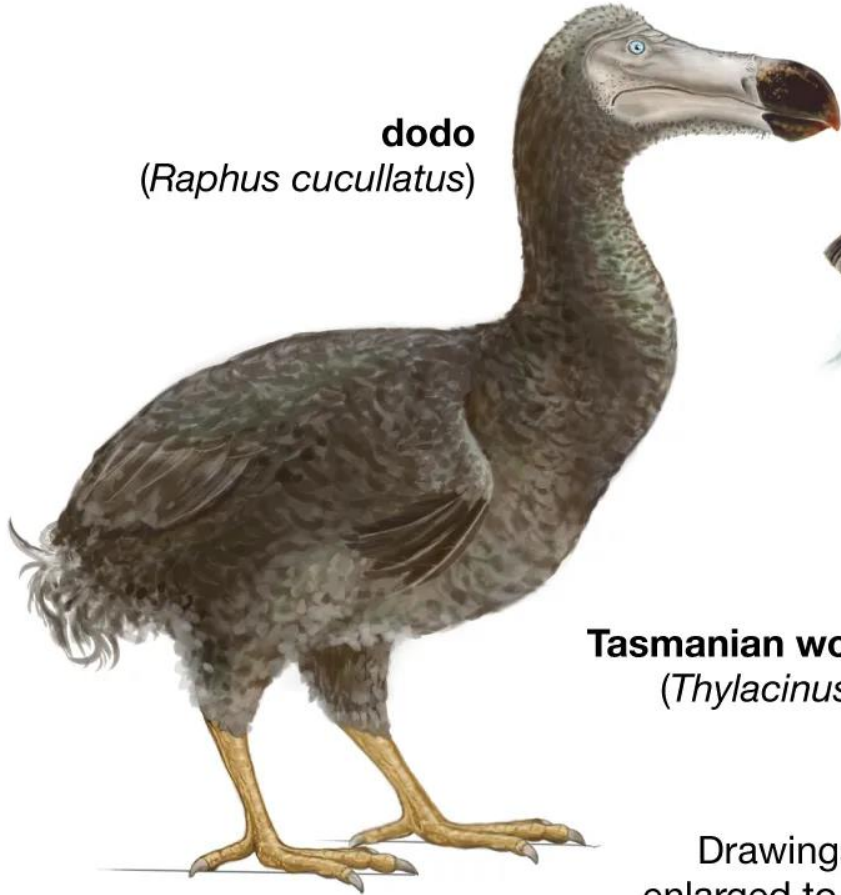
- Background extinction
 - Background extinction refers to the normal extinction rate. These are species that go extinct simply because not all life can be sustained on Earth.
- Mass extinction
 - When an unusually large number of species become extinct over a short period of geological time.
 - Does this mean all of the species go extinct at the exact same time?

Mass Extinction

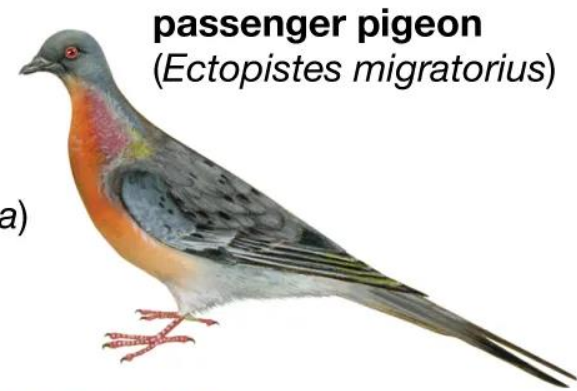
- In the 4.6 Billion Years that the Earth has existed, there have been 5 mass extinctions.
1. Ordovician (444 mya)
 2. Devonian (359 mya)
 3. Permian (252 mya)
 4. Triassic (201 mya)
 5. Cretaceous (66 mya) (Dinosaurs)
- Old Doug Plays The Cello**
- When will the 6th mass extinction occur?



dodo
(*Raphus cucullatus*)



mamo
(*Drepanis pacifica*)



passenger pigeon
(*Ectopistes migratorius*)

Tasmanian wolf, or thylacine
(*Thylacinus cynocephalus*)



Drawings of birds
enlarged to show detail.

Dodo Bird

- An extinct flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.
- The first recorded mention of the dodo was by Dutch sailors in 1598. In the following years, the bird was hunted by sailors and invasive species, while its habitat was being destroyed. The last widely accepted sighting of a dodo was in 1662.

