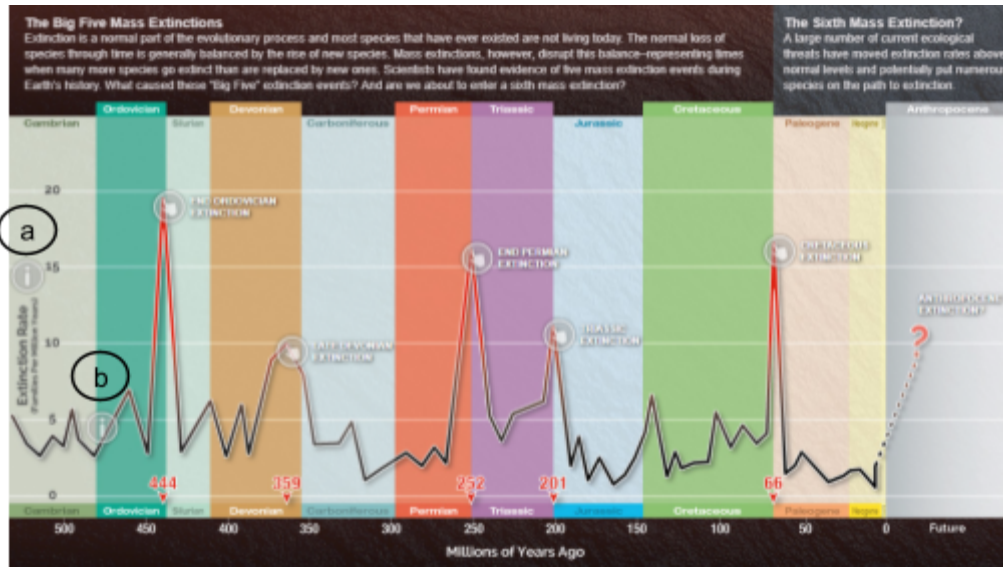


# Mass Extinctions Interactive



Use the click-and-learn resource at

[https://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/](https://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/mass-extinctions-interactive)

[mass-extinctions-interactive](https://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/mass-extinctions-interactive) to answer the following and fill out the graphic organizer on the next page. **CLICK "START INTERACTIVE"** to begin.

Start by reading the text about "The Big Five Mass Extinctions" and "The Sixth Mass Extinction?" at the top of the graph.

a) On the interactive, click on the information icon shown in the picture above near the label (a): it's called **What is extinction rate and what does it tell us?**

- What calculation determines extinction rates?
- What data is the basis of this graph? How far back does it go?

b) Now click the icon near (b) on the interactive to learn: **What are "background" extinction rates?**

- The rate of normal loss of taxa is the ...
- What is the background extinction rate in this graph?

Please fill out the table below in order, starting with the oldest mass extinction event.

Click the “End \_\_\_\_\_ extinction” icon and/or red question mark to answer the columns whose headings are gray boxes.

<b>Period and time frame</b> <i>(click the names of time periods)</i>	<i>Click the names of the time period: Write one good summary bullet point describing this period.</i>	What is the <b>cause</b> of this extinction? <i>(See the big text at top.)</i>	Draw the arrows indicating “ <b>Environmental factors</b> ” <u>or</u> take some bullet notes on the text that follows.	<b>What organisms were most affected?</b> <i>(Use both the picture and the text to inform your answer.)</i>
<b>Ordovician</b>  _____ to _____ <i>million years ago</i>				
<b>Devonian</b>  _____ to _____ <i>million years ago</i>				
<b>Permian</b>  _____ to _____ <i>million years ago</i>				
<b>Triassic</b>  _____ to _____ <i>million years ago</i>				
<b>Cretaceous</b>  _____ to _____ <i>million years ago</i>				
<b>Anthropocene</b>  <i>now!</i>				?