

The Day the Earth Nearly Died

Name _____ Date _____

1. What percentage of life on Earth appears to have died off 250 million years ago? _____

2. What is this mass death of life on Earth about 250 million years ago called? _____

3. What was Dr. Vincent Courtillot's theory of this extinction event? Where did he look for evidence?

4. What was Dr. Michael Rampino's theory about the cause of this extinction? Where did he look for evidence?

5. What does Dr. Adrian Jones believe happens when a huge asteroid hits the Earth?

6. What did Professor Gregory Retallack search for, in order to support or refute the asteroid theory? What did he conclude after his trip to Antarctica?

7. Where did Dr. Paul Wignall go to study this extinction? What surprised him about the fossil record in that area?

8. Dr. Wignall had a chance conversation with a friend, Dr. Gerald Dickens, who came up with a new idea for all the Carbon-12 that was found in the Permian rock. What was this idea?

9. How was this idea tested? What were the results?

10. What is Paul Wignall's theory that pieces together the whole puzzle of the extinction?

11. One of the few survivors of the Permian extinction, the lystrosaurus, is theorized to be very important to life today. Why?
