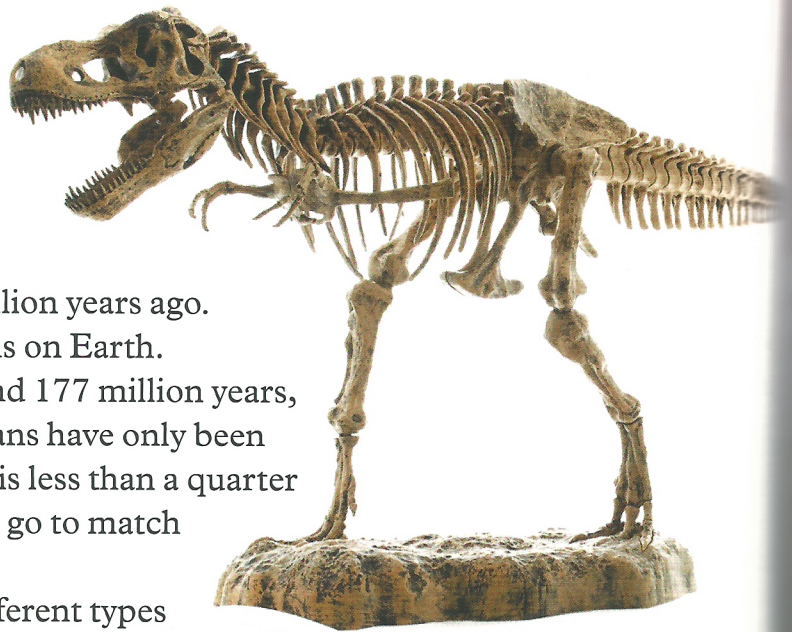


DINOSAURS



Dinosaurs became **extinct** about 66 million years ago. That was long before there were humans on Earth. Dinosaurs also lived for between 165 and 177 million years, which is a really, really long time! Humans have only been around for about 200,000 years, which is less than a quarter of a million years. We have a long way to go to match the dinosaurs!

We don't know exactly how many different types of dinosaur there were. So far, we have found the **fossils** of about 700 different types. However, there were probably many more types of dinosaur, whose bones we haven't discovered yet. Maybe one day you will discover the bones of a dinosaur that nobody else has found before!

Nobody knows for sure what happened to the dinosaurs but there are two main theories:

1. Massive **volcanic eruptions** in India changed the world's climate. It became too cold for dinosaurs. They could not adapt fast enough to survive and began to die out.
2. A huge **meteorite** hit Earth in Mexico and its impact created a large dust cloud that blocked out the sun. This caused a sudden ice age and many animals, including dinosaurs, froze and starved. ■



QUICK QUESTIONS

- 1 Approximately how many years ago did dinosaurs become extinct?
- 2 For approximately how long did dinosaurs inhabit the Earth?
- 3 How many different types of dinosaur have been identified to date?
- 4 In what country were there volcanic eruptions that may have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs?
- 5 How might a meteorite impact have affected Earth?