

Spotlight on the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods



There was life on earth 248 million years ago, but it became extinct during a massive ice age. The first signs of life started again as Earth warmed up and continued to grow over three main units or periods of time: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous

Triassic Period

Around 248 million - 205 million years ago.

The earth was hot, with deserts and warm seas. Dinosaurs and mammals evolved during this time. The Triassic period ended with much of life on earth dying again in what is known as a mass extinction event.

Jurassic Period

Around 205 million - 142 million years ago.

Life on earth recovered quickly, with hundreds of dinosaurs evolving along with birds and other creatures. The land that covered the planet (Pangaea) begins to break up and oceans such as The Atlantic form.

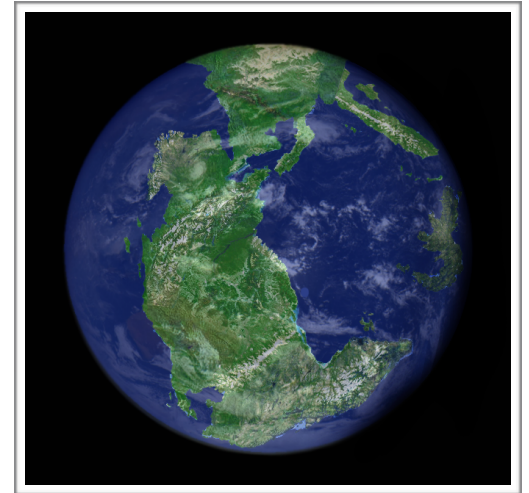
Cretaceous Period

Around 142 million - 65 million years ago.

This was a warm time for the planet, with no ice at the North or South Poles. Much of the land we know today was underwater. The most famous mass extinction event in history (known today as K-T) happened at the end of the Cretaceous killing all of the dinosaurs.

Look up these three periods and draw and label some of the dinosaurs, mammals and creatures that lived in the different times.

This website can help - <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory.html>



How the planet might have looked millions of years ago. At this time it was called Pangaea.

