

# Extinction Events

## Newscaster Activity



Throughout history there have been multiple major extinction events. An extinction event is when there is a change and many plants or animal species die out entirely. There are two major extinction events that effected animals and plants here in Utah – the extinction of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago and the extinction of large land mammals around 12,000 years ago.

Use this activity to further explore extinction events and engage student curiosity in creating, and reporting, on their own extinction event.

Grade Level	3rd-5th Grade
Activity Length	Multiple Class Periods. 3-5 hours.
Materials	Computer to watch Virtual Field Trip Video Phone or Camera to record Student Extinction Event Videos Any Props Students Want for Their Video

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

- (LS2) Ecosystems
- (LS4) Biological Evolution
- (ETS1.A) Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem
- (ETS1.B) Developing Possible Solutions
- (ETS1.C) Optimizing the Design Solution

### SEEd Standards:

**Standard 3.2.5 Engage in argument from evidence** that in a particular habitat (system) some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. Emphasize that organisms and habitats form systems in which the parts depend upon each other. Examples of evidence could include needs and characteristics of the organisms and habitats involved such as cacti growing in dry, sandy soil but not surviving in wet, saturated soil. (LS4.C)

**Standard 3.2.6 Design a solution** to a problem caused by a change in the environment that impacts the types of plants and animals living in that environment. Define the problem, identify criteria and constraints, and develop possible solutions. Examples of environmental changes could include changes in land use, water availability, temperature, food, or changes caused by other organisms. (LS2.C, LS4.D, ETS1.A, ETS1.B, ETS1.C)



# How to Use this Activity

This activity packet includes multiple pieces for you to use in ways that best fit your classroom. Below are suggestions for using this activity in an out of the classroom, alternatives for this activity, and important web links. The following pages are a student explanation page if this activity is being sent to them to work on alone and a student brainstorming page to work on alone or in groups to plan their extinction event video.

## Using this lesson for Distance Learning Options:

1. Print off the packets either at school or at home.
2. Have students answer questions on another sheet of paper or in a notebook if printing is not an option.
3. Students can work in small groups through Zoom, or other online platform, in breakout rooms and then film each part of their video independently.

## Using this lesson in the Classroom:

1. Use classroom computers or tablets for students to complete activity either individually or in small groups.
2. Project the videos for all students to watch together.

## Activity Alternatives

Students do not have access to a camera to film themselves:

- Have student perform a skit in front of the class either via a digital platform or in person.
- Students can write up a news story for a class newspaper instead of creating a news broadcast.
- Have students draw a picture of their extinction event

## Important Web Links

Use both of the links below to help students understand past extinction events and to inspire students for this activity.

Past World Virtual Field Trip - <https://vimeo.com/419177527>

Extinction Event Activity Explanation - <https://vimeo.com/465074992>



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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Click here to watch the Virtual Field Trip Video on Extinction Events.**

Extinction events change the course of our earth's history! Today, major events are reported in many ways including through the news. For this activity you are going to create your own news story about an extinction event! This extinction event can be a real event or a made-up event.

By yourself, or in small groups, make a short video reporting on your chosen extinction event. In this video you can be a newscaster, a reporter, an animal or plant, or anything else your mind can imagine! Use the following page to brainstorm for your video. Make sure to use your answers to the questions in your video.

**Click here to watch this video of the NHMU Youth Teaching Youth teens to get inspired.**

While making your video remember to be creative, try something new, and  
**Stay Curious!**



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### Video Brainstorming:

When does this extinction event occur?

What plants or animals are affected by this extinction event?

What changed to make these plants or animals go extinct?

Design a solution that could have stopped this extinction event from happening.



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