

Dynamic Listening Comprehension Unit 5 Chapter 1 (Video #9)

Why dinosaurs disappeared

Several theories have been proposed about why the dinosaurs disappeared from the face of the earth. In recent years, one popular theory proposes that climatic changes caused the dinosaurs to become extinct. This climatic change theory says that millions of years ago the climate of the world gradually became colder. As the earth slowly became colder, fewer plants were able to grow. The cold weather finally resulted in a severe shortage of food for the dinosaurs. As you probably know, most of the dinosaurs were vegetarians, and they depended on plants for their food supply. In summary, then, the disappearance of the dinosaurs was caused directly by a shortage of plants to eat, and indirectly by a change in the climate. Many scientists still believe that the climatic change theory best explains why the dinosaurs disappeared. This theory argues that the dinosaurs disappeared gradually—slowly—as the earth became colder and their food supply dwindled.

Today there is new evidence for the theory that the dinosaurs did not disappear gradually, but that they disappeared quickly and suddenly. This theory is known as the asteroid theory. It states that a huge asteroid, or perhaps a comet, hit the earth about 65 million years ago. When this comet or asteroid hit the earth, it caused a huge dust cloud. The huge dust cloud covered the whole earth and blocked out the sun for months. Since there was no sun for many, many months, most of the plants on earth died. The dinosaur's food supply was destroyed in a period of months.

While this asteroid theory is not new, what is new is the evidence for the theory. Until recently there was no evidence that an asteroid or a comet had hit the earth 65 million years ago. What happened recently was that scientists found large amounts of a rare earth element called iridium all over the world. This iridium was found in layers of the earth that are 65 million years old. The iridium was found in the same layers where the bones of the last dinosaurs were found.

The element iridium is very uncommon, in fact, rare, on the earth. It is an element, however, that is more often found in space. Scientists speculate that this iridium was brought to earth 65 million years ago when a comet or asteroid hit the earth.

The comet or asteroid theory explains two things. Number 1: It explains the larger amount of the rare element iridium found in the 65-million-year-old layers of earth. And number 2: it explains why the dinosaurs disappeared from the earth.

Now today, scientists continue to debate the two theories: the climatic change theory and the asteroid theory. In the future, evidence may be found that supports a totally new theory of why the terrible lizards died out.

Dynamic Listening Comprehension Unit 5 Chapter 1 (Video #9)
Why dinosaurs disappeared ERROR CORRECTION EXERCISE

Types of errors: articles (a, an, the), verb tense, verb forms, passive voice, singular/plural, parts of speech (for example, using a noun when an adjective is necessary—*safety* or *safe*?)

These types of errors are the ones that students make most commonly in their writing and speaking.

Try to find all the errors by reading, then listen to the lecture again and try to hear the differences between what the speaker says and what is written in this text that needs to be corrected. There is one error in each sentence.

1. Several theories have been proposed about why the dinosaurs disappear from the face of the earth.
2. In recent years, one popular theory proposes that climatic changes caused the dinosaurs to become extinction.
3. This climatic change theory say that millions of years ago the climate of the world gradually became colder.
4. As the earth slowly became colder, fewer plants able to grow.
5. The cold weather finally results in a severe shortage of food for the dinosaurs.
6. As you probably know, most of the dinosaurs were vegetarians, and they dependent on plants for their food supply.
7. In summary, then, the disappearance of the dinosaurs was cause directly by a shortage of plants to eat, and indirectly by a change in the climate.
8. Many scientist still believe that the climatic change theory best explains why the dinosaurs disappeared.
9. This theory argues that the dinosaurs disappearing gradually—slowly—as the earth became colder and their food supply dwindled.
10. Today there is new evidence for the theory that the dinosaurs did not disappear gradually, but that they disappeared quickly and sudden.
11. This theory is know as the asteroid theory.
12. It states that a huge asteroid, or perhaps a comet, hit the earth about 65 million year ago.
13. When this comet or asteroid hit the earth, it was caused a huge dust cloud.
14. The huge dust cloud covered whole earth and blocked out the sun for months.

15. Since there was no sun for many, many months, most of the plants on the earth were died.
16. The dinosaurs food supply was destroyed in a period of months.
17. While this asteroid theory is not new, what is new is the evidences for the theory.
18. Until recent there was no evidence that an asteroid or a comet had hit the earth 65 million years ago.
19. What happened recently was that scientists found large amounts of a rare earth element called iridium all over world.
20. This iridium was found in layer of the earth that are 65 million years old.
21. The iridium was found in the same layers where the bone of the last dinosaurs were found.
22. The element iridium is very uncommonly, in fact, rare, on the earth.
23. It is an element, however, that more often found in space.
24. Scientists speculate that this iridium was brought to earth 65 million years ago when comet or asteroid hit the earth.
25. The comet or asteroid theory explain two things.
26. Number 1: It explains larger amount of the rare element iridium found in the 65-million-year-old layers of earth.
27. And number 2: it explains the dinosaurs disappeared from the earth.
28. Now today, scientists continue to debate the two theories: the climatic change theory and asteroid theory.
29. In the future, evidence may be found that supports totally new theory of why the terrible lizards died out.

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Why dinosaurs disappeared ERROR CORRECTION EXERCISE
CORRECTIONS SHOWN IN RED FONT

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17. The dinosaurs' food supply was destroyed in a period of months.
18. While this asteroid theory is not new, what is new is the evidences for the theory.
19. Until **recently** there was no evidence that an asteroid or a comet had hit the earth 65 million years ago.
20. What happened recently was that scientists found large amounts of a rare earth element called iridium all over **the** world.
21. This iridium was found in **layers** of the earth that is 65 million years old.
22. The iridium was found in the same **layers** where the **bones** of the last dinosaurs were found.
23. The element iridium is very **uncommonly**, in fact, rare, on the earth.
24. It is an element, however, that **is** more often found in space.
25. Scientists speculate that this iridium was brought to earth 65 million years ago when **a** comet or asteroid hit the earth.
26. The comet or asteroid theory **explains** two things.
27. Number 1: It explains **the** larger amount of the rare element iridium found in the 65-million-year-old layers of earth.
28. And number 2: it explains **why** the dinosaurs disappeared from the earth.
29. Now today, scientists continue to debate the two theories: the climatic change theory and **the** asteroid theory.
30. In the future, evidence may be found that supports **a** totally new theory of why the terrible lizards died out.

Writing Exercise

Use the information below to write a summary of the lecture. Explain the content of the lecture in correct sentences and paragraphs. Try not to look back at the transcript, and definitely don't copy sentences from the transcript. Write your own original sentences. Check your sentences carefully for the types of errors you found in the error correction exercise.

Introduction: I'm going to talk about two theories that explain why dinosaurs became extinct.		
	theory 1	theory 2
explanation:	climate change, slowly became colder plants died, shortage of food	sudden climate change because of asteroid impact dust cloud made the earth cold suddenly plants died quickly
evidence:	65,000,000 years ago dinosaurs became extinct and the climate became colder	iridium is found in layers of the earth where dinosaur bones are found iridium is rare on earth but common on asteroids
Conclusion:		