

Name

Class

JURASSIC PERIOD (201 TO 145 MILLION YEARS AGO)



1. During the Triassic period a volcanic eruption caused:

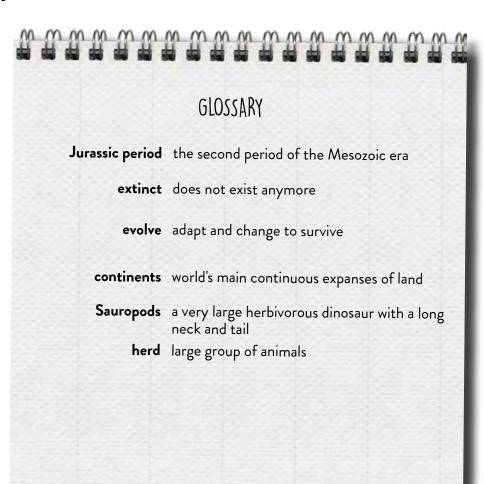
- ☐ all dinosaurs to be wiped out
- ☐ the North Atlantic ocean to be formed
- ☐ the Pacific Ocean to be formed

2. The landscape during the Triassic period was:

- ☐ mainly hot and dry
- ☐ mainly cold and windy
- mainly wet and icy

3. During the Triassic period, dinosaurs were most like:

- ☐ fish
- ☐ mammals
- reptiles





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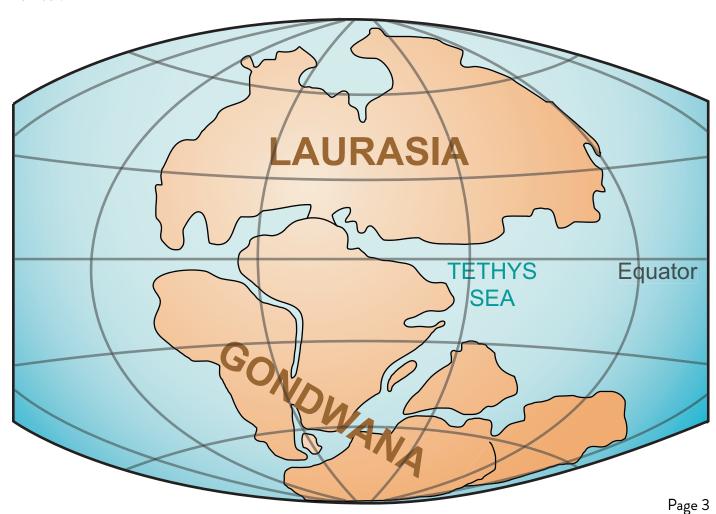




TRIASSIC PERIOD (252 TO 201 MILLION YEARS AGO)

At the end of the Triassic Period there was a mass extinction, the causes of which are still hotly debated. Many large land animals were wiped out but the dinosaurs survived, giving them the opportunity to evolve into a wide variety of forms and increase in number.

The single land mass, Pangaea, split into two, creating Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Despite this separation, similarities in their fossil records show that there were some land connections between the two continents early in the Jurassic. These regions became more distinct later in the period. Temperatures fell slightly and rainfall increased as a result of the large seas appearing between the land masses.

These changes allowed plants such as ferns and horsetails to grow over huge areas. Some of this vegetation became the fossil fuels that we mine today. Elsewhere there were forests of tall conifer trees such as sequoias and monkey puzzles.

The plentiful plant supply allowed the huge plant-eating sauropods such The plentiful plant suplly allowed the huge plant as Apatosaurus, Diplodocus and Brachiosaurus to evolve.

These are some of the largest animals to have ever walked the Earth. By the end of the Jurassic their herds dominated the landscape. Sauropods became even larger in the Cretaceous.

