

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Paleontological Society of Austin ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A map of North America during the mid-Cretaceous period. The landmasses are colored brown and labeled 'Laramidia' (the western part) and 'Appalachia' (the eastern part). A large body of water, the 'Western Interior Seaway', separates them. Other labeled features include the 'Hudson Seaway' and the 'Labrador Seaway'. The map shows the coastline of North America and surrounding regions like Greenland and parts of Europe and Africa.



Similarly, the Age of Reptiles closed in a geological moment 66 million years ago with an event that killed off almost all the dinosaurs and some 70 percent of all other species living on Earth. Birds are the one branch of the dinosaur family that survived. The extinction also killed off plesiosaurs and mosasaurs and devastated fish, sharks, mollusks (especially ammonites, which went extinct) and many species of plankton. Scientists believe the major cause of this extinction event was a 10-kilometer-wide comet that blasted into the Earth traveling 30 kilometers per second - 150 times faster than a jet airliner.

