



biodiversity: yesterday and today

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Pupils are working on the « Mass extinction » subject

- I What is a mass extinction?

<http://www.amnh.org/science/biodiversity/extinction/Intro/OngoingProcess.html>

Pupils build a timetable to characterise the different mass extinctions through the geological time

- II Cretaceous boundary: A mass extinction?

how biodiversity is affected at this time? What are the causes of this mass extinction?

<http://paleobiology.si.edu/dinosaurs/info/everything/why.html>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/history_of_the_earth

- III Are we facing the 6th mass extinction?

Pupils work in pairs. Each group receives one article. First they have to sum up one article using a specific method; they also fill the table just below. They discuss about the 6th mass extinction using the answers of the part I and II.

Documents: Faroe whales/ primates/ antarctic/ palm oil/

- 1) <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn16159-faroe-islanders-told-to-stop-eating-toxic-whales.html>
- 2) <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn14465-half-of-worlds-primates-face-extinction.html>
- 3) <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn16130-antarctic-islands-surpass-galapagos-for-biodiversity.html>
- 4) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/apr/04/energy.indonesia>

location 1 2 3 4
Threatened living beings
Cause
datation

Using this article, they can discuss about loss of biodiversity and mass extinction.
<http://www.actionbioscience.org/newfrontiers/eldredge2.html>