

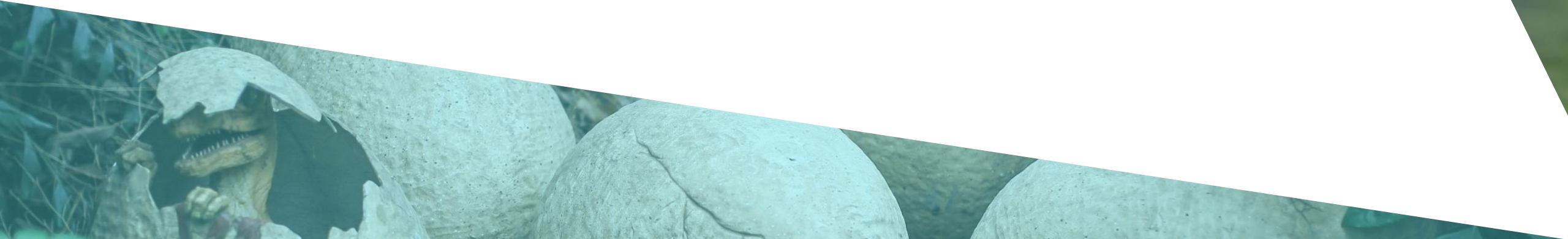


SMART JUNIORS 3

The Mysterious Extinction of the Dinosaurs

Lesson 44

Read for Main Idea



Academic Vocabulary Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of each highlighted word.

1. The mountain was so **immense** that it took us hours to climb to the top.

2. Scientists study **asteroids** to learn more about the history of our solar system.

3. Without water, all living things will **perish** because water is essential for life.

v. to die, especially in a violent, sudden, or untimely manner

adj. something which is extremely large or great

n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun

Academic Vocabulary Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of each highlighted word.

4. If I don't water the plants in the garden, they will start to **dwindle**.

v. to decrease or become smaller or less over time

5. The meeting came to an **abrupt** end when the fire alarm went off unexpectedly.

n. the state of a species or larger group disappearing from existence

6. Conservation efforts aim to prevent the **extinction** of endangered species.

adj. refers to something sudden or unexpected

Think Before Reading

**Why do you think dinosaurs became extinct?
Choose your answer and state your reasons.**



asteroids



drought



eruptions



diseases

- Listen and read the story. Think about what the main idea is.

The Mysterious Extinction of the Dinosaurs

▶ In a time before humans, dinosaurs roamed the Earth, ruling the land with their **immense** size and strength. They lived in lush forests and wide plains, each one perfectly suited to its environment.



▶ But one day, everything changed. A massive **asteroid** crashed into the Earth, causing chaos, and reshaping the world as we knew it.

LISTEN AND READ



▶ At first, earthquakes shook the ground. Then, tsunamis swept the land, and the sky filled with dust and debris. As the dust settled, the world was transformed. The once-green forests were now barren, and food was scarce. Soon, many dinosaurs **perished** in this new world. Despite their struggles, some dinosaurs adapted, but their numbers **dwindled**.

▶ In the end, the age of dinosaurs came to a mysterious and **abrupt** close, leaving behind only fossils and unanswered questions. Today, scientists study fossils and rocks to uncover more about this mysterious event. The **extinction** of the dinosaurs remains one of the most fascinating and puzzling mysteries in Earth's history.



The Mysterious Extinction of Dinosaurs

In a time before humans, dinosaurs roamed the Earth, ruling the land with their immense size and strength. They lived in lush forests and wide plains, each one perfectly suited to its environment.

But one day, everything changed. A massive asteroid crashed into the Earth, causing chaos, and reshaping the world as we knew it.

At first, earthquakes shook the ground. Then, tsunamis swept the land, and the sky filled with dust and debris. As the dust settled, the world was transformed. The once-green forests were now barren, and food was scarce. Soon, many dinosaurs perished in this new world. Despite their struggles, some dinosaurs adapted, but their numbers dwindled.

In the end, the age of dinosaurs came to a mysterious and abrupt close, leaving behind only fossils and unanswered questions. Today, scientists study fossils and rocks to uncover more about this mysterious event. The extinction of the dinosaurs remains one of the most fascinating and puzzling mysteries in Earth's history.

The Main Idea

What do you think is the main idea of the story?

A

The sudden and complete disappearance of the dinosaurs was thought to be caused by a huge disaster.

B

The breakdown of the food chain and the extinction of dinosaurs allowed mammals to become the leading species on Earth.

Identify the Structure

Read paragraph 1 and choose the answer.

What does paragraph 1 aim to introduce?

- A** the narrative structure
- B** the background of the story
- C** the author's purpose



Paragraph 1

In a time before humans, dinosaurs roamed the Earth, ruling the land with their immense size and strength. They lived in lush forests and wide plains, each one perfectly suited to its environment.

Identify the Structure

Skim paragraph 2 and tell whether each statement is True or False.

- _____ 1 It tells the beginning of the story.
- _____ 2 It introduces the conflict.
- _____ 3 It provides a review of the story.

Paragraph 2

But one day, everything changed. A massive asteroid crashed into the Earth, causing chaos, and reshaping the world as we knew it.



Identify the Structure

Skim paragraph 3 and identify the two parts.
It includes:

A

background information and context

series of struggles

B

series of challenges

most intense part of the story

Paragraph 3



At first, earthquakes shook the ground. Then, tsunamis swept the land, and the sky filled with dust and debris. As the dust settled, the world was transformed. The once-green forests were now barren, and food was scarce. Soon, many dinosaurs perished in this new world. Despite their struggles, some dinosaurs adapted, but their numbers dwindled.

Identify the Structure

Skim paragraph 4 and identify the two parts.
It includes:

A

wrap-up of the story

outcome of the story

B

resolution of the problem

introduction of the next problem

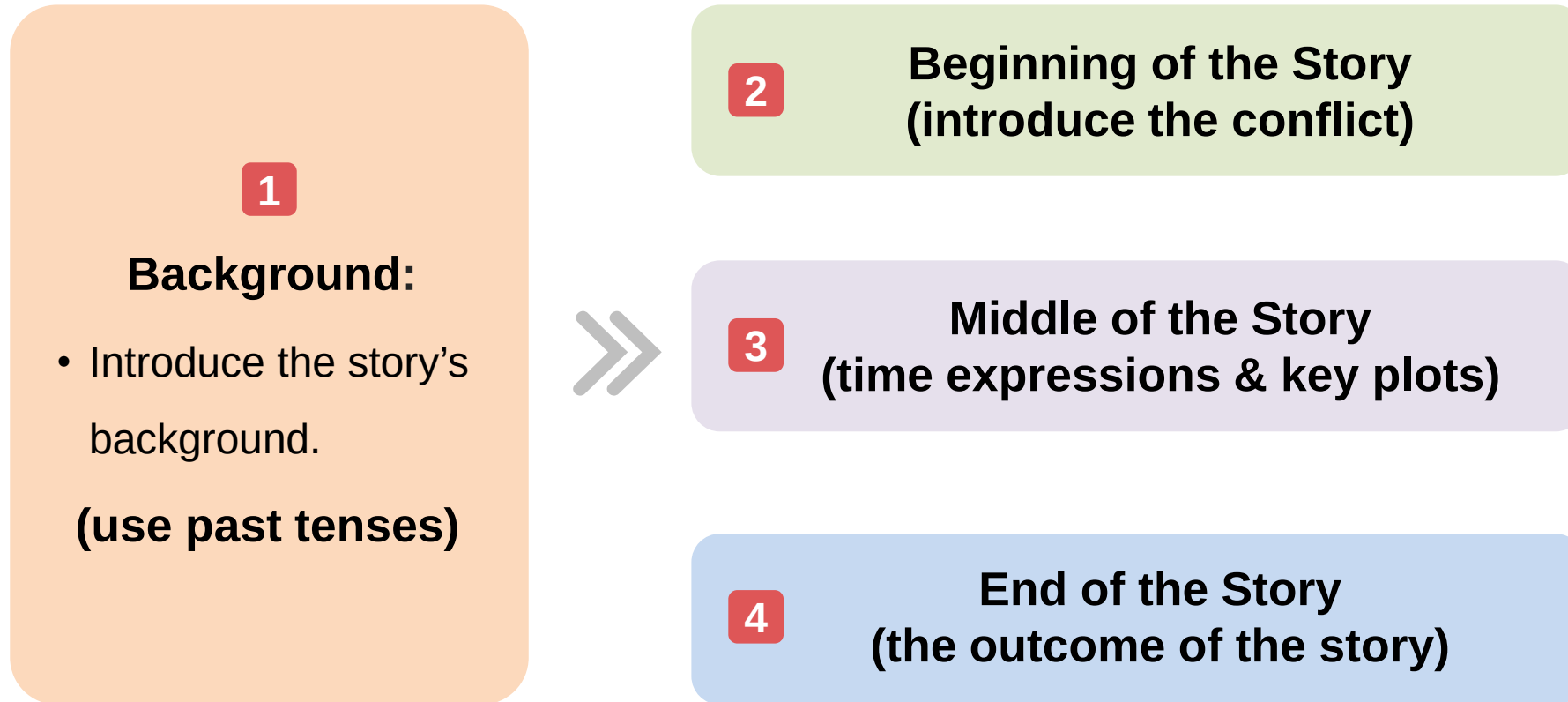
Paragraph 4

In the end, the age of dinosaurs came to a mysterious and abrupt close, leaving behind only fossils and unanswered questions. Today, scientists study fossils and rocks to uncover more about this mysterious event. The extinction of the dinosaurs remains one of the most fascinating and puzzling mysteries in Earth's history.



THE WRITING STRUCTURE

- Now let's put the four parts together to reveal the story's structure.





Academic Vocabulary

immense

asteroid

perish

dwindle

abrupt

extinction

Story Structure

1

Background:

- Introduce the story's background.

(use past tenses)



2

Beginning of the Story
(introduce the conflict)

3

Middle of the Story
(time expressions & key plots)

4

End of the Story
(the outcome of the story)



A large yellow diagonal graphic covers the right side of the image. It features a faint silhouette of a dinosaur's head and neck. Scattered across the yellow area are several small circles in shades of blue and orange. The text 'WHAT'S NEXT...' is written in a large, white, rounded font with a thick orange drop shadow, positioned over the yellow graphic.

WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to understand the story in detail. See you next time!