

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Opinion Writing Prompt

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### PROMPT

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How did the dinosaurs become extinct? After reading *Rock-Solid Theories*, *Death from Volcanoes?*, and *Possible Theories*, using 1-3 paragraphs, state your opinion on how the dinosaurs became extinct and provide reasons to explain your thinking. Be sure to support your opinion with evidence from the text(s).

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### STANDARDS CONNECTION

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#### Science Standard 4

Students will understand how fossils are formed, where they may be found in Utah, and how they can be used to make inferences.

*Objective 2:* Explain how fossils can be used to make inferences about past life, climate, geology, and environments.

- c) Research information on two scientific explanations for extinction of dinosaurs or other prehistoric organisms.

#### Writing

**W.4.1** Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

W.4.1.A Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

W.4.1. B Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

W.4.1.C Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance*, *in order to*, *in addition*).

W.4.1.D Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

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### LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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#### Materials:

Dinosaur Extinction Theories Text Set

Typed up text from book for students to refer to for evidence

#### Instructional Sequence:

1. Teacher hands out the typed up prompt and text.
2. The teacher introduces writing prompt and explains that students will be listening/reading a text and using that text to answer the prompt.
3. The teacher reads aloud *Rock-Solid Theory*, *Death from Volcanoes*, and *Possible Theories* to the students. As the teacher reads, students may be underlining or highlighting information that they may find useful for responding to the prompt.
4. Upon finishing the read aloud, students will be provided with paper to respond to the prompt.