

Focus and Organization	Evidence and elaboration	Conventions
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How I think Dinosaurs died

By Sierra

After reading *Rock-Solid Theory*, *Death from Volcanoes*, and *Possible Theories*, I think I know what happened to the giant reptiles, that once roamed the Earth. I think a massive explosion from a volcano killed the dinosaurs. By this theory everything would have died, the dust and ash covered the sky and the Sun making Earth colder.

Opinion is clearly stated and maintained throughout.

Without the Sun, the water got colder. The dramatic change to the temperature in the water made all the living organisms, eventually die.

Transitions used throughout to make connections between and among ideas.

Since dinosaurs are reptiles, they are cold-blooded, the change in the water would have made their body heat 25 percent lower than it would have been, giving dinosaurs hypothermia. Then on land the it would

Evidence from text is smoothly integrated in the writing.

happen, the same the change to the temperature would have made some dinosaurs die. Then the plants would die, making the rest of the dinosaurs die of starvation. After millions of years after the explosion, things began to repopulate, except the dinosaurs. That is how I think

Student elaborates on evidence to support opinion.

the giant reptiles died, other people think different, but this is how I think they died.

This student uses transitions to make connections among their ideas. The opinion is stated and the organization is focused. The student uses evidence to support the opinion, and then elaborates on why that evidence is important. Although the introduction and conclusion are present, they could be improved. There are some spelling and grammar errors, but no systematic patterns of errors are displayed.

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What do you think killed the dinosaurs?

I think a asteroid killed them all because there is a huge crater in Mexico, it would have produced a lot of heat causing wildfires, and it would have covered the sky with ash, soot, and dust causing the dinosaurs to starve.

First, I will tell you how it would have started a wild fire. I + would have started a wildfire because when a meteor enters earth's atmosphere it will become very hot and catch on fire, and when it lands the heat will catch plants on fire. This is one reason I think it was a asteroid that killed the dinosaurs.

Next, I will tell you about the crater in Mexico. The crater in Mexico probably got there by the asteroid that killed the dinos. This is proof that the dinosaurs were killed by a asteroid.

Last, I will tell you how it covered the sky. The ash, soot, and dust were profour from when the asteroid landed. It hit the ground so hard that

The introduction states the opinion and lays out the organization for the rest of the paper.

Transitions are basic, but are used to make connections between ideas.

Evidence from the text is used to support the opinion.

It made ash and soot. It also made
all the dirt fly up into the sky covering
up the sunlight. With no sunlight the
herbivores would die from starvation. The
herbivores would not have reached meat
so the carnivores would die too. This
is another reason why I think a
asteroid killed the dinosaurs.

Some elaboration
helps to explain
why the evidence
is important.

Conclusion
restates the
opinion as well as
the key ideas.

To conclude, I have told you why
I think a asteroid killed the dinoes.
One is it would have started a wildfire,
all the dinosaurs would have starved,
and there is a huge crater in Mexico.
This is why I think the asteroid killed
all the dinoes.

This student has a clear organizational structure that focuses on supporting the opinion. The student uses basic transitions to move the writing along. Evidence from multiple sources is combined and elaborated on. The student shows a command of conventions throughout the paper.

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1	1	2

DINOSAURS.

Did you know some interesting facts of the Volcanoes and Dinosaurs. Did you know The death of Volcanoes? But About 65 millions of years ago,that changed.Sixty-five millions of years ago there were many volcanoes eruptions in what is now central india.Sending the word into many years of cold and dark. With no food,animals starved and died.Adapted from where did all the Dinosaurs Go? What killed dinosaurs? Many scientists blamed a climate change.They think the climate became cooler.Dinosaurs could not adjust to cooler weather,and they died.What kind of natural could have caused the climate to change? Scientists feel climate change may explain Why so many other species died,both land and sea creatures died too.Some scientists think that something on the Earth happened to change the climate.

Maybe volcanoes erupted. And dust and dirt could have been thrown into the air.The dust and dark clouds that blocked the sun.The earth got cooler.Clouds of dust blocking the sunlight is not unusual. In 1815 a volcano named Tambora erupted. It put so much dust and dirt into the air that the weather changed. It rained a lot in some places.In other places,it did not rain at all. The summer was really cold. In the United States, 1816 was called the "year without a summer. Earth got colder and colder.Many plants that had survived the plant eaters would have starved to,Dinosaurs that ate plants could not find enough to eat. So they starved Meat-eating dinosaurs who ate the meat-eaters would have starved to.Scientists have found evidence for both the volcano and asteroid theory.The dust in the clouds was getting in the way of the sun and all animals were starving and they did have lots of plants but the were dead the plants did not get some water or sunlight so the animals couldn't eat the plants some animals died because they were starving the animals that could dig survival. Which one do you think is really true?

Although volcanoes are mentioned, opinion is not clearly stated.

Much of the evidence used is copied directly from the text.

Evidence from the text is summarized, but does not support an opinion.

The student tries to introduce and conclude using a questioning strategy that matches with the organization of the text. This student has copied some of the key ideas from the text, but has not elaborated on many of those ideas. Although there are some errors in conventions, there is an adequate command.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and elaboration	Conventions
2	2	1

Dinosaurs

Max
3/10/16

Dinosaur essay

How do you think the dinosaurs died? Well these questions will be answered in these paragraphs. There are three theories we will cover today. The three theories are the Asteroid, Volcano and the Climate change theories. So let's jump right into it.

The student introduces how dinosaurs may have died, but there is no clear opinion.

The first theory we will talk about is the Asteroid theory. This theory is the most certain to scientist. The asteroid is about 9 Miles wide and travel at 20 times the speed of a bullet. The evidence of this theory is in the article "Experts Say They Know What Killed The Dinosaurs" and it says that in 1991 they found a large crater in Mexico. So, do you think that that theory is true.

Basic transitions are used to make connections between ideas.

The second theory is the Volcano theory. This theory was some-what used as a good explanation of how the dinosaurs died. The volcano could of erupted a load of ash into the sky and blocked the sunlight. The evidence of this theory is in the article "Death from Volcanoes?" And it says that there was a lot of volcanic activity in what is now central India and that those volcanoes brought out a lot of ash at that time. So, do you think this theory is true.

Evidence from multiple sources is cited and used, but does not support an opinion.

The third theory is the climate change theory. The climate change theory was concluded that the earth got colder from a volcano. They have not figured out what volcano did this so, that is why this theory is the most least used. The evidence for this theory is found in the article "Possible Theories" And it says that the volcano must of been close for it to get colder where the dinosaurs lived. So, do you think this theory is true?

Evidence is summarized, but no elaboration.

So, That was the three theories of how the dinosaurs died. Those theories was the most commonly used. There are many more theories out

there, of how the dinosaurs died. The most commonly used theory was the asteroid theory because there is much more evidence than that article I gave you. So, which one of those theories do you think is the most understanding to you?

Questioning technique is used throughout response.

Although this essay follows a clear organizational structure, there is no opinion stated. It is a summary of the ideas presented in the text. The student cites each source and describes the evidence found there. There are enough errors in conventions that it starts to obscure meaning.

4th Grade Opinion Responses

Dinosaurs

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I wonder what dinosaurs looked like? Many years ago dinosaurs ruled the Earth. But one day that changed, suddenly all the dinosaurs vanished. Some think it was an asteroid. Some think it was a volcano. Nobody knows for sure. One day the mystery had been revealed, or maybe not.

I bet dinosaurs were huge! To begin with one group of scientists think they have discovered what happened to the dinosaurs. Scientists say that "A massive asteroid slammed into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and did the dinosaurs in. In 1991, researchers discovered a huge crater in Mexico. Many considered it proof of the asteroid theory." About sixty-five million years ago there was a volcanic eruption that scientists say was the answer for the missing dinosaurs. Evidence from the text states that "Sixty-five million years ago there were many volcanic eruptions in what is now central India." So now after all this reading I'm not sure which side to choose.

Did dinosaurs get frost bite? To start off, lots of scientists think the freezing climate is what killed the dinosaurs. The author stated that "Many scientists blame the climate a climate change. They think the climate became cooler. Dinosaurs could not adjust to colder weather, and they died." There are so many ways the dinosaurs could have died. The graphics show that "After the fire had burned out, some people say the air was heavy with soot, ash, and dust. There was so much, the sun could not shine through. Dinosaurs that ate plants could not find enough to eat. So they starved. Meat eating dinosaurs who ate the plant eaters would have starved, too." Now I do wonder if the dinosaurs died from an asteroid, a volcano, or even the cold climate. Each one of those could be the reason.

The student introduces how dinosaurs may have died, but there is no clear opinion.

Some transitions work to connect ideas, while others don't make sense with the rest of the paragraph.

Evidence is cited and elaborated on.

The conclusion wraps up the essay, but student is unsure of the opinion.

The student's opinion on the issue is somewhat unclear and some of the transitions didn't quite work. Multiple pieces of evidence from the text were cited and the student effectively elaborated on that evidence. There is a strong command of conventions.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and elaboration	Conventions
1	2	2

Dinosaur Essay

These are some reasons why dinosaurs became extinct. One reason is hundreds of species once roamed the Earth. About sixty five millions of years ago, that changed. Another reason is some experts say that the nine mile wide asteroid traveled twenty times faster than a speeding bullet. The impact caused ash and other particles to cloud the air which blocked sunlight. One last reason is in 1991, researchers discovered a large crater in Mexico. Many considered it proof of the asteroid theory. Those were some reasons how dinosaurs became extinct. Do you think that is how dinosaurs became extinct?

Here are some reasons how dinosaurs died. One reason is scientist think the climate became cooler. Dinosaurs could not adjust to cooler weather, and they died. Another reason is some scientist think that something on the Earth happened to change the climate. Maybe volcanoes erupted that dust and dirt could have been thrown into the air. Third reason is the dust and dirt made giant dark clouds that blocked the sun. The Earth got cooler. Fourth reason is in 1815 a volcano named Tambora erupted. It put so much dust and dirt into the air that the weather change and it rained in some places and in some places it did not rain. Fifth reason is dinosaurs that ate plants could not find enough to eat. They starved without eating nothing. Those were some reasons how dinosaurs died. Do you think that is how dinosaurs died?

Basic transitions are used to summarize the details of the text.

Opinion is unclear.

Evidence from text is present, but weakly integrated.

Introduction and conclusion are weak.

The student has used transitions to make connections among ideas, however there is no clear opinion. The student has listed evidence from the text, but it is weakly integrated in the response. The student has an adequate command of conventions.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and elaboration	Conventions
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4th Grade Opinion Responses

Dinosaurs

My opinion of how dinosaurs got extinct is that an asteroid hit Earth. The impact caused ash and other particles to cloud the air. In 1991, researchers discovered a large crater in Mexico. They say that the 9-mile wide asteroid traveled 20 times faster than a speeding bullet. I will tell you some more reasons why I think an asteroid hit Earth. First of all, it caused ash and other particles to cloud the air. That caused no sunlight. No sunlight caused the plants to die. And no plants cause herbivores to die. Then finally if there are no herbivores the carnivores won't have any thing to eat because the herbivores are probably all dead. That is my first reason why I thought an asteroid hit Earth. Second reason is, in 1991, researchers discovered a large crater in Mexico. Maybe that is where most of the dinosaurs were. If most of the dinosaurs were there, that would kill a whole lot of dinosaurs and plants. There were probably a lot of other dinosaurs in other places. That was my second reason why I thought an asteroid hit Earth. Third reason is that they say that a 9-mile wide asteroid traveled 20 times faster than a speeding bullet. I bet that would have killed so many dinosaurs at that time. It would kill a lot of plants and trees and every thing. That asteroid must have been really fast. That was my third reason why I thought it was

Opinion is clearly stated and maintained throughout.

Transitions are used to make connections among ideas.

Evidence from text is smoothly integrated and supports opinion.

Student uses explanation and examples to elaborate on evidence.

a asteroid that hit Earth. These are my three reasons why I thought a asteroid hit Earth. First, the impact caused ash and other particles to cloud the air. Second, it blockes sunlight. Finally, in 1991 researchers discovered a large crater in Mexico. These are my three reasons why I thought a crater hit Earth.

Conclusion restates the opinion and reasons.

Although there is a bit of repetition, the organization is clear. Transitions are used to make connections both between and among ideas. The student integrates evidence from the text to support the opinion. There is a strong command of conventions.