

## 1. What do you think about...?

**Timothy Morton's title:**

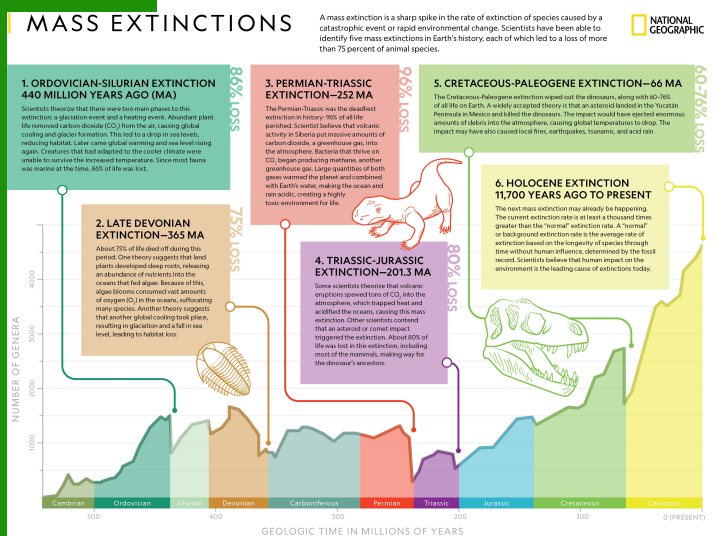
**“And You May Find Yourself Living in an Age of Mass Extinction”**

**and Graham Harman's quotation:**

**“[T]he best remedy for what ails us is not the truth/knowledge pair”**

## 2. How many mass extinctions do you identify on the graph?

**When would you place them?**



taux/vitesse de variation $\Leftrightarrow$ rate of variation	
	lent, progressif, rapide $\Leftrightarrow$ slow, progressive, rapid
	pente [faible, douce, forte, raide] $\Leftrightarrow$ [smooth, gentle, strong, steep] slope
	changement radical de [valeur, ...] $\Leftrightarrow$ sharp/dramatic change in [value, ...]
	montée soudaine $\Leftrightarrow$ surge
A, B	passer par un [maximum en A, minimum en B] $\Leftrightarrow$ to go through a [maximum at A, minimum at B]
I	point d'inflexion $\Leftrightarrow$ inflexion/inflexion (Br/Am) point
P	point de rebroussement $\Leftrightarrow$ cusp sommet, pic $\Leftrightarrow$ apex/vertex, peak
PP'	[ligne de] crête, arête $\Leftrightarrow$ crest [line], ridge
A', B'	sommet, fond/creux $\Leftrightarrow$ top, trough
S	ensellement, col $\Leftrightarrow$ saddle point, pass

## 3. How can you geologically highlight a mass extinction?

**Answer the practice question.**

### PRACTICE QUESTION

In 1980, Luis and Walter Alvarez, Frank Asaro, and Helen Michels discovered, across the world, a spike in the concentration of iridium within the sedimentary layer at the K–Pg boundary. These researchers hypothesized that this iridium spike was caused by an asteroid impact that resulted in the K–Pg mass extinction. In Figure 2, the iridium layer is the light band.

Scientists measured the relative abundance of fern spores above and below the K–Pg boundary in this rock sample. Which of the following statements most likely represents their findings?

- An abundance of fern spores from several species was found below the K–Pg boundary, but none was found above.
- An abundance of fern spores from several species was found above the K–Pg boundary, but none was found below.
- An abundance of fern spores was found both above and below the K–Pg boundary, but only one species was found below the boundary, and many species were found above the boundary.
- Many species of fern spores were found both above and below the boundary, but the total number of spores was greater below the boundary.

[Show Answer](#)

Answer a: An abundance of fern spores from several species was found below the K–Pg boundary, but none was found above.



Figure 2. Iridium band (credit: USGS)

## 4. What would your definitions be for ...?

**Anthropocentrism:** is the belief that human beings are the central or most important entity on the planet.

**Anthropocene:** the period of time during which humanity has become a planetary force of change.

**Ecology:** the natural science of the relationships among living organisms and their environment. For Timothy Morton, “The ecological thought is the thinking of interconnectedness.”