

GEOLOGIC TIMEWALK - MESOZOIC

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[MUSIC PLAYING] We've reached the next stop along our geologic time walk journey. Right now, the continents are continuing to spread apart. Florida is actually a gigantic reef. We just did bivalves and other reef-building organisms-- not so much coral-- are producing extensive reefs, which actually form the base rock that we see in Florida today.

The dinosaurs stores are very much still dominating the earth at this time. Some of them actually migrate back into the water, such as the pleiosaur to take advantage of food sources such as fish and other sharks that are living in the ocean that survived the mass extinction event during the Permian Triassic.

But a very important organism that is also alive at this time are a shrew-like animal. And they are some actually the first placental mammals to roam around the earth. And the life is extremely abundant on earth, but another event kind of clears the whole earth. And this is called the cretaceous tertiary mass extinction event.

So what scientists hypothesize is that an asteroid impacted the earth off of the Yucatan Peninsula. They think it was a roughly 10 kilometers across. So once it struck the ocean, it actually created a massive tsunami that raced around the world. It ejected lots of material into the atmosphere, clouding the atmosphere, killing [? photostatic ?] life, killing life that depends on these primary producers for their energy.

So not as devastating as the great dying event during the permian triassic, but still a very important event. And it marks the demise of the dinosaurs. And what's so amazing about this event is just as the mass extinction event we saw before, this cleans the earth and really sets the stage for mammals to take over. So we're going to keep walking along our walk. And I kind of see the rise of the mammals.