

Here Come the (Bigger) Mammals

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: After reading "[Here come the \(bigger\) mammals](#)," answer the following questions.

- 1. What event altered life on Earth 66 million years ago? What may have been a major consequence of the event?**
- 2. What have scientists found in rocks in Colorado? How are these discoveries helping scientists understand the life-altering event?**
- 3. According to the article, how did mammals change in the hundreds of thousands of years after the event? What factors may have contributed to that change?**

Reading graphs

- 4. On the graph "How fast mammals grew in maximum body mass after the dino-killing asteroid," what information is displayed on the x-axis? What about the y-axis? Don't forget to include units!**
- 5. What does the horizontal red line represent?**
- 6. What does the thick beige line show? What about the numbers on the line?**
- 7. What do the horizontal dotted lines represent? Explain each line shown. Why do you think the lines are included on the graph?**

8. Describe fossil No. 1 on the graph. Where was it found? What mammal does it represent? How big was this mammal? And how does it differ from the other mammals shown on the graph?

9. How does the body mass of *Baioconodon* compare with the body mass of *Didelphodon*? According to the beige line, how do these mammals' body masses compare with the body masses of mammals that survived the strike?

10. Based on the comparison you made in the previous question, come up with a hypothesis about mammals' recovery from the asteroid strike.

11. According to the graph, what were the body masses of the mammals found in Corral Bluffs, Colo.? How do these mammals differ from the mammal found in South Table Mountain, Colo.?

12. What is one conclusion that you can draw from the graph? Explain.