

MASS EXTINCTION



A MASS EXTINCTION IS EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE - EXTINCTION ON A VERY LARGE SCALE. WHEN 50% OR MORE OF **ALL PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES** DISAPPEAR WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, IT'S REFERRED TO AS A **MASS EXTINCTION**.

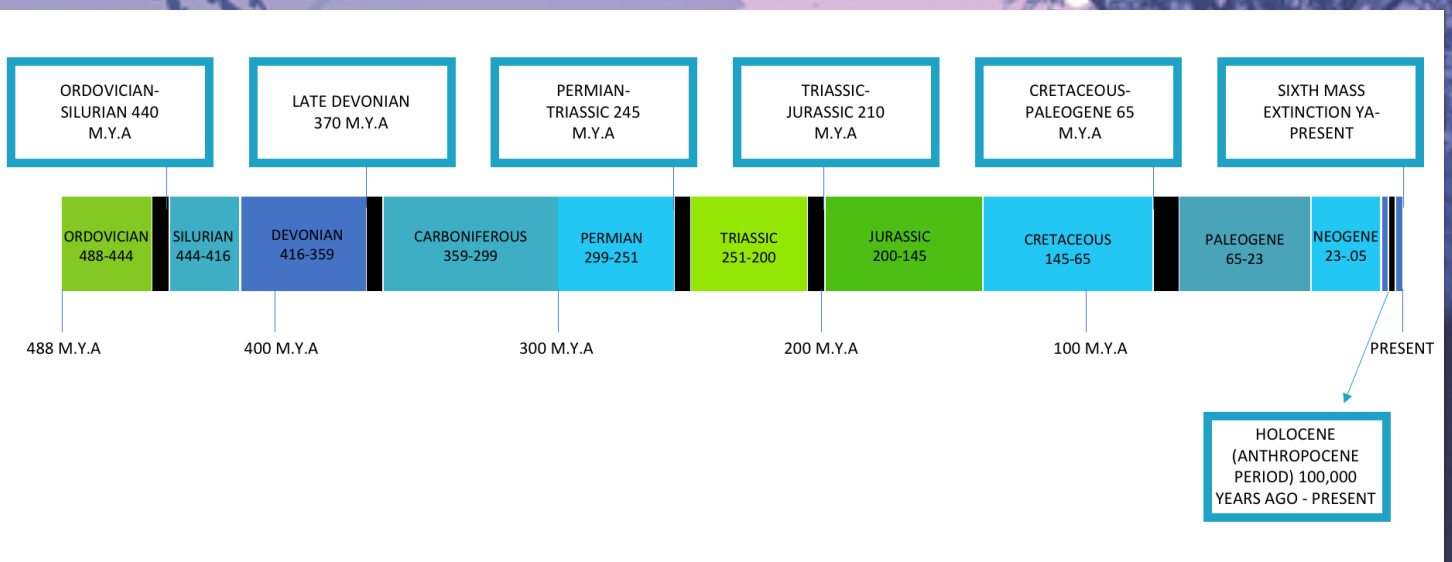
Mass extinctions dramatically reduce Earth's **biodiversity**.

Scientists have identified **five mass** extinctions in Earth's history.

As many as five species become extinct **every year**, which is described as the natural "background" rate of extinctions.

Half of **all species** on Earth have disappeared in the last 50 years.

GEOLOGICAL TIMELINE OF MASS EXTINCTIONS FROM 488 MILLION YEARS AGO TO PRESENT MASS EXTINCTIONS IN BLACK



Human activities are causing the habitat loss, introduction of invasive, non-native species, pollution, ocean acidification, and climate change that are devastating many species.