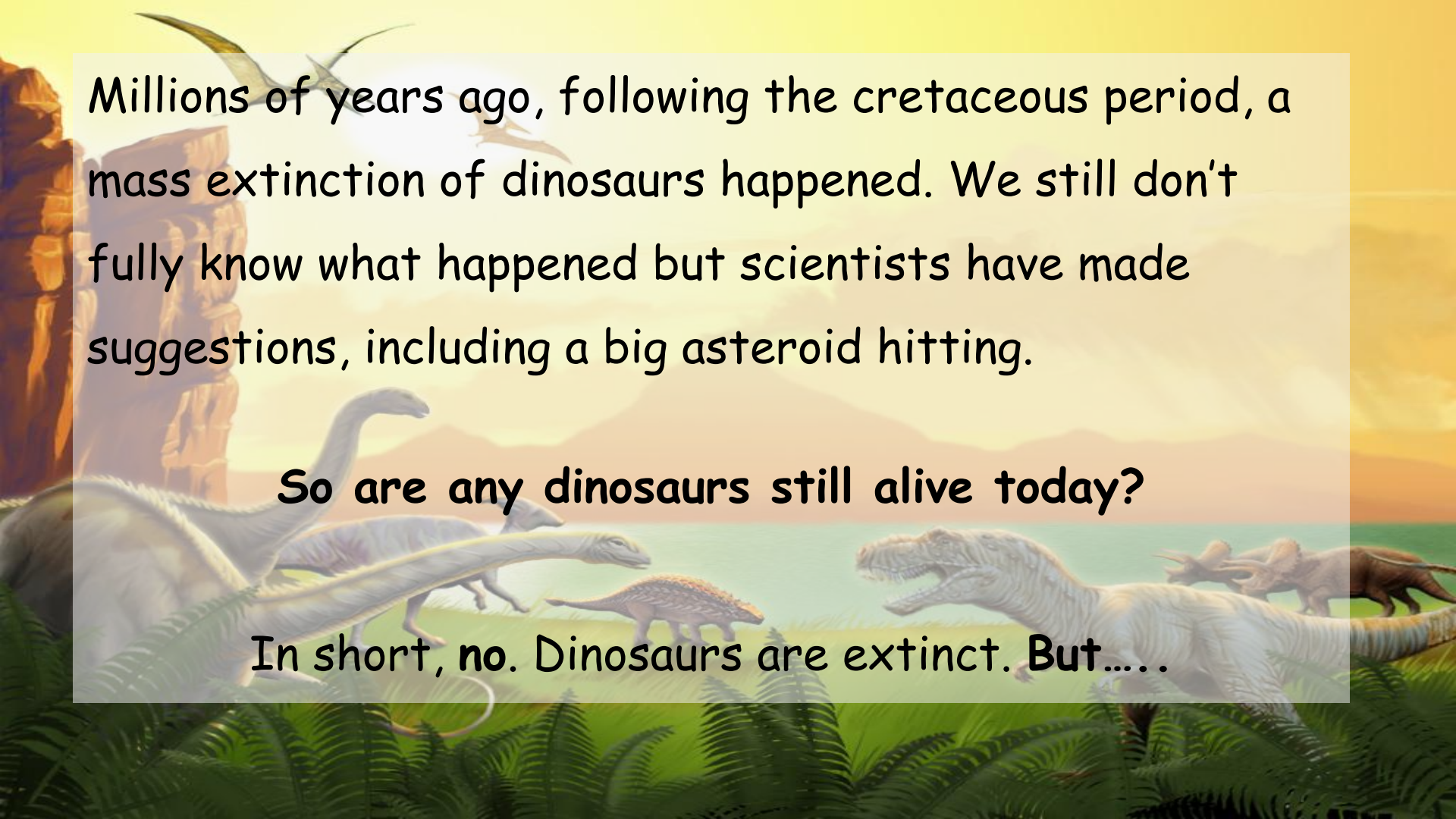




Are dinosaurs still alive?

The background of the slide is a vibrant, stylized illustration of a prehistoric world. In the foreground, there are lush green ferns. In the middle ground, several dinosaurs are depicted: a long-necked sauropod on the left, a smaller bipedal dinosaur in the center, and a large T-Rex on the right. In the background, there are rolling green hills, a blue sky with a few pterosaurs flying, and a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the upper half of the image.

Millions of years ago, following the cretaceous period, a mass extinction of dinosaurs happened. We still don't fully know what happened but scientists have made suggestions, including a big asteroid hitting.

So are any dinosaurs still alive today?

In short, no. Dinosaurs are extinct. But.....

....some of their relatives are still roaming around, as are some of the creatures that shared the earth with the dinosaurs. They don't look quite the same because they have evolved and adapted to the changing habitat over millions of years but they are still around.

Basically these creatures great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grans and grandads were around during the mesozoic era!

So lets find out about them!



Chickens!

Strange but true! Birds descended from theropods. Remember the T-Rex's and velociraptors we classified a couple of weeks ago?! Yes, birds are related to them! In fact, birds are believed to be the only direct descendants of dinosaurs! Fossil studies have found that the T-Rex shares a lot of its DNA with chickens specifically and by extension - all birds.

That will make you think next time you hear a pigeon or see a robin in your garden!



Ostriches

These birds are very closely related to a species of dinosaur from the cretaceous period. Ostriches shape and size are very similar to velociraptors - even their talons are claw like.



Crocodiles and Alligators

You can really see the similarity between crocs and dinosaurs; rubbery skin, fierce teeth and claws, reptiles. They are part of a 'crocodilian' group which first appeared 95 million years ago in the late Cretaceous period. Back then thought they would have been giant crocs!



Sarcosuchus
Dryosaurus
Deinosuchus



Snakes

Crocodiles were not the only reptiles to outlive the dinosaurs. Snakes slithered their way out of the dinosaur era alive! Ground level was very busy and some snakes will have even fed on dinosaur young. Earliest snake fossils date back to 140-167 million years ago, right in the middle of the dinosaur times - making them twice as old as a T-Rex.



Bees

Bees are one of the most important creatures that live on planet Earth and they have been here for a very, very long time! They appeared in the cretaceous period, as the first flowers began to bloom, and would have buzzed from flower to flower when the T-Rex roamed the wilderness.



Sharks

Sharks have been on planet Earth since way BEFORE the dinosaurs! They are believed to have been living in Earth waters for 450 million years! Sharks haven't always looked like they do now...and haven't always been this size. Fossils have shown us that sharks used to be much bigger. The Megalodon was around the size of a blue whale. It's also hard to imagine that sharks would have been prey to an immense dinosaur called the Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus - a semiaquatic theropod!



Crustaceans

Crabs and lobsters have been around since the dinosaur times.

Horseshoe crabs are even called 'living fossils' because they evolve very very slowly so their current form is pretty much the same now as millions of years ago! Many lobster species have been around since before the dinosaurs - hundreds of millions of years! Like with sharks we know that crustaceans are much smaller now than they were back

then.



Duck-billed Platypus and Echidnas

These amazing, odd looking creatures are the only 2 remaining species of egg laying mammals called monotreme. They lived during the Jurassic time. Platypuses and Echidnas are native to Australia. Sadly now duck-billed platypuses have a 'near-threatened' status as their numbers are declining.



Sea Turtles

Sea turtles began to evolve during the cretaceous period. Their grandparents were massive - 4 meters long and 5 meters wide from flipper to flipper!

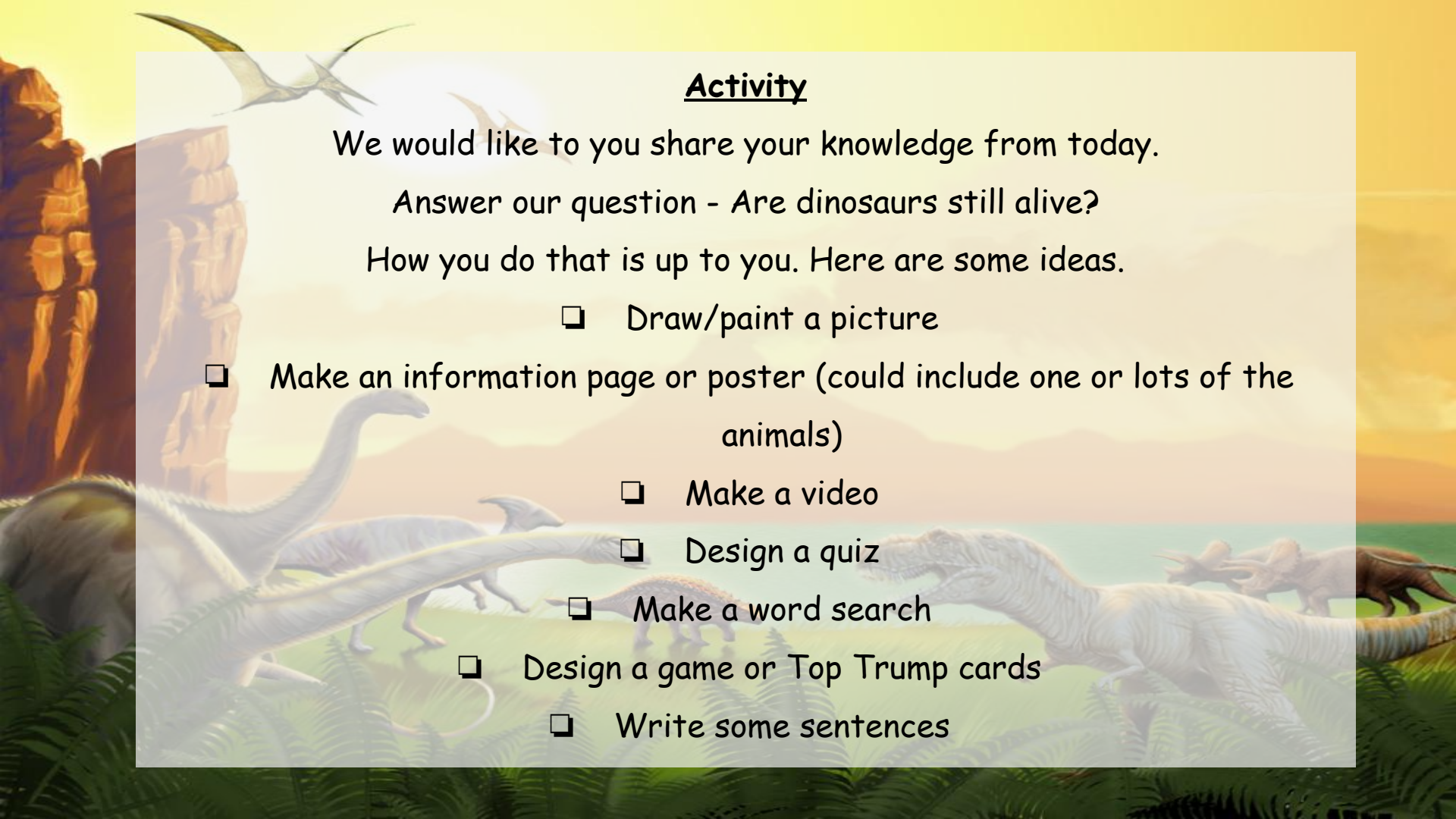


Tuatara Lizards

All lizards and reptiles are closely related to dinosaurs but not as close as these! Tuatara Lizards are the last remaining species of its kind and have been around for over 250 millions years. They have dark green scales, spiny backs and large black eyes. Tuatara are now classed as 'vulnerable to extinction' and can only be found in New

Zealand.



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a prehistoric landscape. In the foreground, there are lush green ferns. A long-necked sauropod is on the left, and a large theropod is on the right. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a bright yellow sky with a few pterosaurs flying. The entire scene is framed by a semi-transparent white box containing text.

Activity

We would like to you share your knowledge from today.

Answer our question - Are dinosaurs still alive?

How you do that is up to you. Here are some ideas.

- ☐ Draw/paint a picture
- ☐ Make an information page or poster (could include one or lots of the animals)
 - ☐ Make a video
 - ☐ Design a quiz
 - ☐ Make a word search
- ☐ Design a game or Top Trump cards
 - ☐ Write some sentences

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/why-are-birds-the-only-surviving-dinosaurs.html>

