

Changes in the Earth's environment are not always gradual or predictable. Sometimes an event occurs that completely changes the composition of an environment. Chapter 6, The Day the Mesozoic Died, details the discovery of one of the fastest and most severe environmental changes the earth has ever experienced, the impact of a humungous asteroid roughly 65 million years ago. This event caused a mass extinction, the one responsible for most of the dinosaurs. Because organisms are dependent on their environment, it is the environment that dictates which individuals survive and sometimes, like in the case of the asteroid impact, which species as a whole survive.

The chapter that I based my project on tells of how Walter Alvarez noticed that there was a clear visual distinction between the layers of rock that were formed during the Mesozoic era and the Cenozoic era. The change between the K-T boundary, as he later called it, was clear and abrupt. Upon further research he concluded that an asteroid struck the Earth, which resulted in a mass extinction.

My project draws inspiration from a way in which rock is formed, by compounding layer upon layer. I began the drawing using my dominant hand to make the lines. However, I switched to using my non-dominant hand about halfway through in order to simulate a dramatic change in the environment. The drawing did not fall apart during and after switching to the non-dominant hand, in the same way that the Earth's environment did not completely fall apart after the impact. The asteroid only changed the environment; it did not obliterate it entirely. My drawing is a simulation of the Earth, and as the creator of it, it was within my power to alter the way in which it was made.









