

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a fossilized skull, likely from a primate or early hominid. The skull is embedded in a light-colored, porous rock matrix. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the skull, containing the text "Module 4".

# Module 4

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a fossilized skull, likely from a primate or early hominid. The skull is embedded in a light-colored, porous rock matrix. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the lower portion of the skull, containing the text "Studying Mass Extinctions".

# Studying Mass Extinctions

# Module 4

- 1) Students will research the causes of mass extinctions including, but not limited to:
  - Climate change (global warming/glaciation)
  - Tectonic activity
  - Changes in Sea level/chemistry
  - Changes in atmospheric chemistry
  - Bolide impact (iridium anomalies as evidence along with craters)
  - Others: including extinction of food species, competition, parasites, epidemics, etc.



# Module 4

2) Groups of students will choose one of the Earth's mass extinction events and research the proposed cause(s) of that event. \* Students will then produce a presentation to share their findings with the rest of the class or another appropriate audience in the form of a power point presentation, news report video, newspaper article, or other acceptable form. May be used as a summative assessment at the teacher's discretion.

\*One or more groups of students may be assigned research on the current extinction rate, its causes, and how this extinction event compares to those in the past.

# Module 4

1) In conclusion: the class may want to discuss what lies in the near and distant future for Earth's living creatures, including humans.



# Credits

- Dr. Thomas Rossbach, Elizabeth City State University
- The Kenan Staff
- Ethan Boller
- Jessica, Kasey, and Lindsey Boller
- Dr. Donald Boller (Dad, thanks for getting me interested in fossils and science in general!)