



# MASS EXTINCTIONS



- If a species becomes **Extinct**, it means that the last of them has died . . . forever!
- A **Mass Extinction** is when 50% to 90% of all living species on earth are killed off.
- Causes of these mass extinctions are thought to include **Volcanoes** and **Impacts of Asteroids**. These release toxic gases, and **Global Warming** could occur. It blocks out the sun long enough to kill off the plants, and an **Ice Age** could result. **Radiation Extremes** from space could have destroyed the Ozone Layer, with Mass Killings.

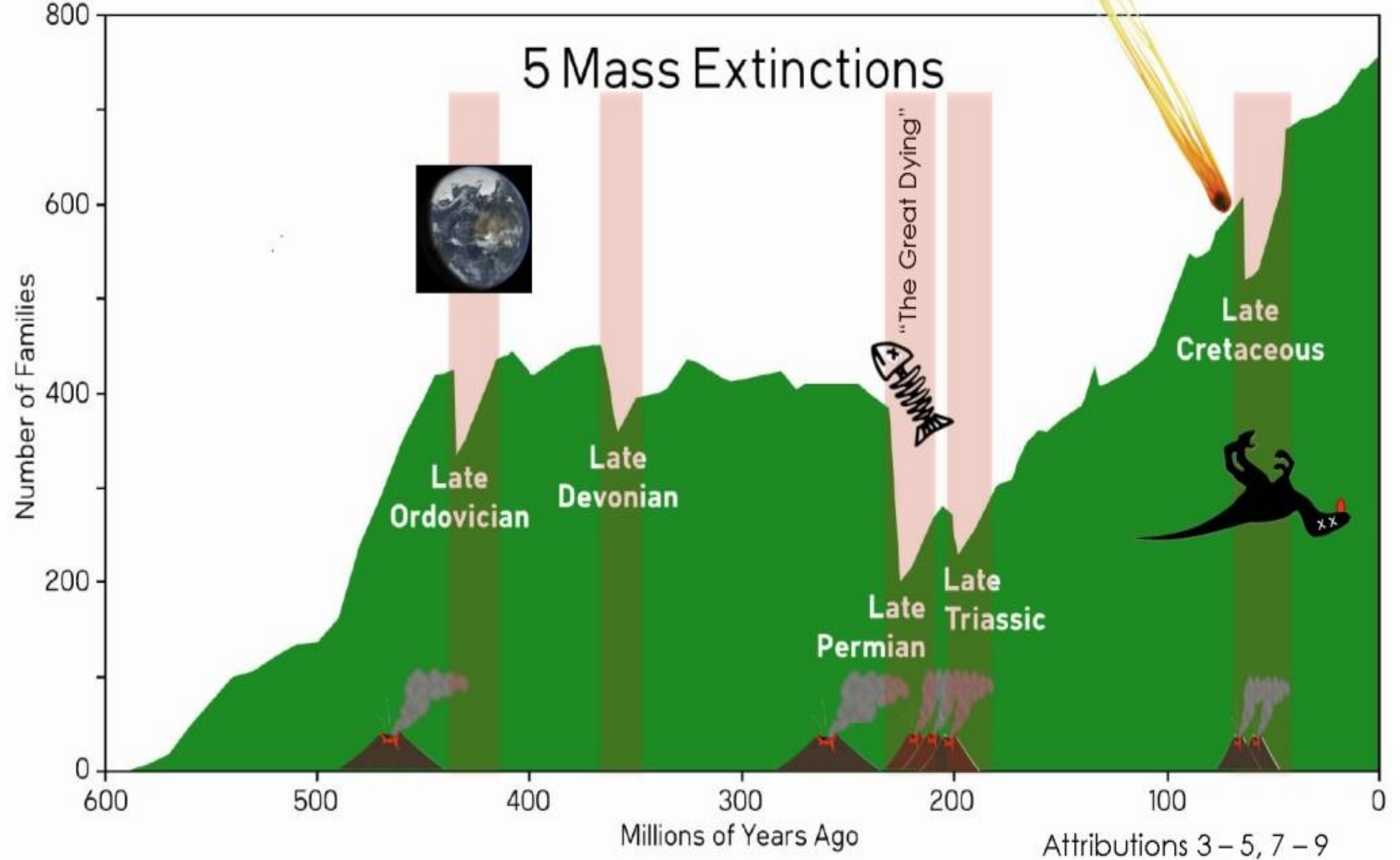


# OUR FIVE MASS EXTINCTIONS



1. 450 mya – climate changed (somehow) into an Ice Age.
2. 360 mya – this extinction took a total of 20 million years to occur. It included Global Cooling, a drop in sea level, and lots of water (with no Oxygen dissolved in it) coming from the deep. (Suggestions are of **volcanic** activity.)
3. 250 mya – the most vicious of all extinctions (95% sea; 70% land). Lots of **volcanoes**, causing more heat and less Oxygen in the air and in the ocean, and lots of ash in the air for acid rains.
4. 205 mya – Once again, **volcanoes** caused acid rain, the warming of the globe and its oceans, drops in sea level, and water coming from the deeps (with no Oxygen in it).
5. 65 mya – a 10 km asteroid smashed into South America, killing off many living things, and setting off **volcanoes**. This caused acid rain and blocked out the sun, causing global cooling. ***Bye-bye to all dinosaurs.***

# 5 Mass Extinctions



Number of Families

Millions of Years Ago

Attributions 3 - 5, 7 - 9

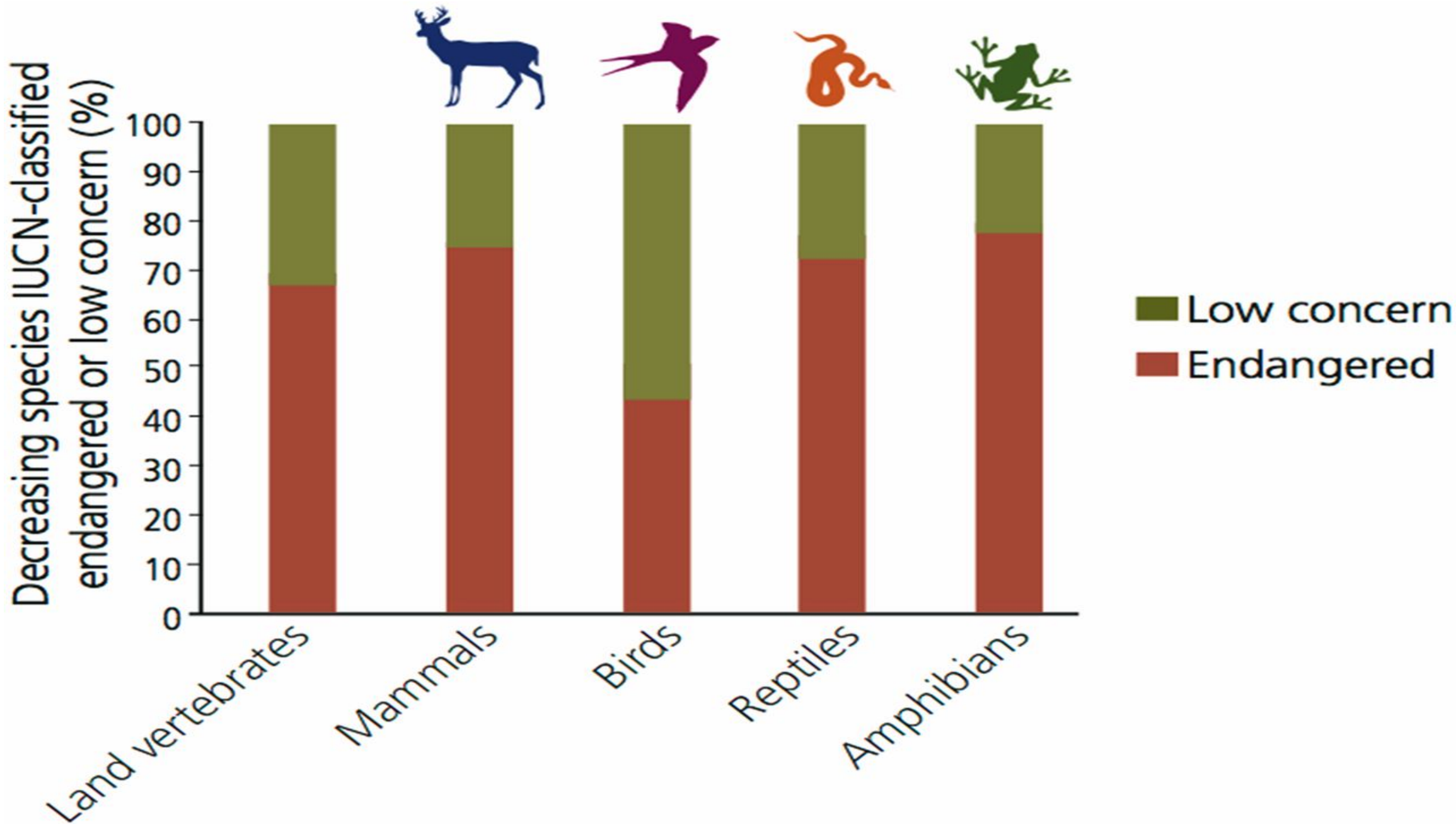
# OUR SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION



Our **Sixth Mass Extinction** is happening right now. **Every day**, there are many species of micro-organisms, plants and animals becoming extinct across the world. And this is happening **entirely** because of **Humans**. Our population has become so large that we have had to take over every area of Nature for a place in which to live. This is destroying our natural biodiversity, and is all because of:

- **Overpopulation** of humans from lots of ignorance, too much sex, and not enough birth-control.
- Destruction of nature's **habitats** for us to live in or to farm.
- **Pollution** – especially from our burning fossil fuels. (Cars, factories, generating of electricity.)
- **Global warming** from all our greenhouse gases.
- Uncontrolled hunting, like the **poaching** of rhinos.





## How Our Animals are Threatened by Humans