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Q:- Write Notes on FAUNISTIC PECULIARITIES OF MESOZOIC ERA.

Ans:- Mesozoic :-

The Mesozoic ERA is one interval of geological time from about 252 to 66 million years ago. It is also called the Age of Reptiles and Age of Conifers.

The Mesozoic ("middle life") is one of three geologic eras of the Phanerozoic Eon, preceded by the Paleozoic ("ancient life") and succeeded by the Cenozoic ("new life"). The era is subdivided into three major periods: the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous, which are further subdivided into a number of epochs and stages.

Naming :-

The phrase "Age of Reptiles" was introduced by the 19<sup>th</sup> century paleontologist Gideon Mantell who viewed it as dominated by diapsids such as Iguanodon, Megalosaurus, plesiosaurus, and Pterodactylus.

Mesozoic means "middle life", deriving from the Greek prefix meso-/meso- for "between" and zōon / ζῷον meaning "animal" or "living being". The name "Mesozoic" was proposed in 1840 by the British geologist John Phillips (1800 - 1874).

The Mesozoic era was originally described as the "secondary" era, following the primary or Paleozoic, and preceding the Tertiary.

Geologic periods :-

following the



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Paleozoic, the Mesozoic extended roughly 186 million years, from 251.902 to 66 million years ago when the Cenozoic EPO began. This time frame is separated into three geologic periods, from oldest to youngest.

- Triassic (251.902 to 201.3 million years ago)
- Jurassic (201.3 to 145 million years ago)
- Cretaceous (145 to 66 million years ago)

The lower boundary of the Mesozoic is set by the Permian-Triassic extinction event, during which approximately 90% to 96% of marine species and 70% of terrestrial vertebrates became extinct. It is also known as the "Great Dying" because it is considered the largest mass extinction in the earth's history. The upper boundary of



Mesozoic is set at the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event or K-Pg extinction event, which may have been caused by an asteroid impactor that created Chicxulub crater on the Yucatan Peninsula. Towards the late Cretaceous, large volcanic eruptions are also believed to have contributed to the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event. Approximately 50% of all genera became extinct, including all of the non-avian dinosaurs.

### Cretaceous:-

The Cretaceous is the longest period of the Mesozoic, but has only two epochs: early and late Cretaceous.

The early Cretaceous spans from 145 to 100 million years ago. The early Cretaceous saw the extinction



of seaways, and as a result, the decline and/or extinction of Laurasian sauropods. Some island-hopping dinosaurs, like *Eusauropodomylus*, evolved to cope with the coastal shallows and small islands of ancient Europe. Other dinosaurs hope up to fill the empty space that the Jurassic Cretaceous extinction left behind, such as *Archaeopteryx* and *Spinosaurus*. of the most successful was the *Iguanodon*, which spread to every continent. seasons came back into effect and the poles got seasonally colder, but some dinosaurs still inhabited the polar forests year round, such as *Leaellynasaura* and *Muttaborrasaurus*. the poles were too cold for crocodiles, and became the last stronghold for large amphibians like *Koolasuchus*. Pterosaurs got larger as genera like *Topejara* and *Ornithochelone* evolved.