



Introduction & timetable

KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE:	Mass Extinction! - 6 hour-long live Zoom sessions
LEVEL:	The course is primarily aimed at adults who want to know more about the ups and downs of the fossil record, focussing on the major mass extinction events that have occurred.
DATES:	The course is on Mondays at 2pm or 6.30pm commencing November 6th for 6-weeks
DELIVERY:	Course participants can access supporting materials in print form, or by Moodle and Email. Printed papers cost £15.00 extra. A weekly Zoom meeting is at the heart of this course, Mondays at 2pm or 6.30pm
COURSE TUTORS:	Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
CONTACT:	email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel. 0114 2455746

Why mass extinctions?

We have had an online fossil course on our books for several years now and most recently extracted those Units that dealt with specific fossil groups to run as a Zoom course. This left a total of four Units that dealt with large extinction events. We are now taking these and adding two brand new Units to present a 6-week Zoom course entitled 'Mass Extinctions!'

For each of the extinction events, we'll examine what happened and the likely reasons behind it. We'll see what became extinct and what replaced those groups that did not make it. Along the way, we'll encounter some amazing things, such as why modern day corals are unlikely to be related to ancient ones.

We're sure that together we're going to have a good time and by the end of it, you'll know lots about the fossil record. The aim of this sheet is to give you the basic information to enable you to get started as soon as we push the button!

If, after reading this, you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone on 0114 245 5746, or by email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Getting Started...

Over the course of 6-weeks we're going to be exploring some of the major variations in the fossil record through time. I will be presenting the live Zoom sessions from the Geo Supplies base in Sheffield, assisted in by my friend and colleague Colin Schofield, from his home in Rochdale. Colin is in charge of the technical side and will introduce everyone to the benefits of our free to use learning platform Moodle.

The course will be presented in two ways, firstly by weekly live Zoom sessions and secondly through additional materials that you can access electronically or in printed form. We strongly recommend everyone to access Moodle. My colleague Colin Schofield will be in contact to help you to get onto Moodle.
(Colin's Email: downtoearthgeology@outlook.com)

Colin will be adding lots of additional information using Moodle and it's also the place for discussion forums for you to share your questions and comments with other course members. (It'll be possible to share your pictures with others should they be compact enough). If links are found to videos that tell the story better than we can, then they will be there and lastly of course it's more convenient than attachments sent to your email address. Colin will act as first respondent for any Moodle queries or forum questions and Chris will come in as necessary.

Course timetable...

Listed below are the topics, that will be presented in the order shown.

November 6	The ups and downs of the fossil record
November 13	The Precambrian/Cambrian boundary
November 20	The end Ordovician & late Devonian
November 27	The end Permian & end Triassic events
December 4	The Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary
December 11	The present day climate emergency & extinctions

What's included in the course fee...

- **Six hour long Zoom sessions**
- **Supporting notes and written materials in either hard or electronic form**

Cost...

The course fee is £50.00 for one person, or for two people studying together it is £70.00, which includes all of the above. If you would like the additional materials in printed form, this is £15.00 extra.

Practical points...

- To take part in this course, you'll need a computer, iphone or tablet with access to the internet. You'll also need a valid email address - please supply this at the time of enrolment.
- Additional background material will be available as pdf files, or can be supplied in printed form by mail. A broadband connection would be very helpful, but is not essential.
- To access Moodle, Colin will give you some simple instructions and a password.
- To take part in the live Zoom presentations, you'll obviously need a camera and microphone.
- To access the Zoom sessions, the same login details are used for the whole course (you'll be given the details once you enrol)

Further aids to your studies...

Most books on the subject are either presented at a high level or concentrate on the morphology of the various fossil groups. However, the book that we recommend does neither of these things and will be helpful to you in your understanding of the subject matter.

Fossils - the story of life by Sue Rigby BGS £7.00 including postage

Important information for all enrolled learners

To protect our materials, we must ask you to agree not to share them with anyone not enrolled on the course by any means, including email. This is a condition of you enrolling on this course.