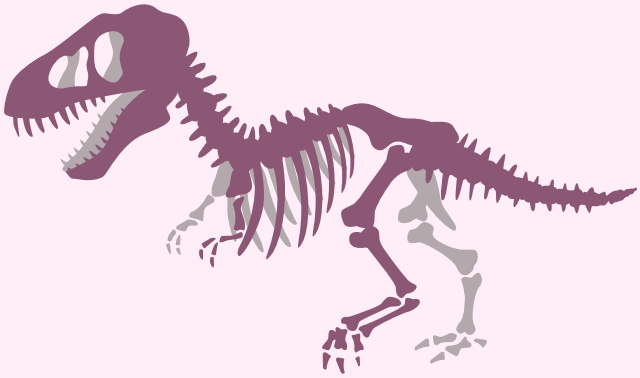
Xavier's Daily

Challenge yourself!

What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?

Answer
A stamp



Spectrum's Corner

Thought of the Day

Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing, it's a day you've had everything to do and you've done it. – Margaret Thatcher

Word of the Day

Licentious : someone who is promiscuous
Example: The ruler's tyrannical and licentious behaviour.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *Dinosaur fossils have been found on all seven continents.*

WHAT REALLY KILLED THE DINOSAURS ?

By Atiqua | Designed by Nivedita Nair *[Xol]*

For decades, the prevailing theory about the extinction of the dinosaurs was that an asteroid from the belt between Mars and Jupiter slammed into the planet, causing cataclysmic devastation that wiped out most life on the planet.

But new research out of Harvard University theorizes that the Armageddon-causing object came from much farther out than originally believed.

The gravity from Jupiter pulled the comet into the solar system. At that point, according to Amir Siraj, a Harvard student who co-authored the paper with Professor Avi Loeb, "Jupiter acts as a kind of pinball machine."

The theory goes: Jupiter's gravity shot this incoming comet into an orbit that brought it very close to the sun, whose tidal forces caused the comet to break apart. Some of the comet's fragments entered Earth's orbit, and one slammed into the coast of Mexico.

The theory also posits that large-impact craters, such as the so-called Chicxulub crater caused by this impact, are more likely to be made of "carbonaceous chondrite" — a primitive material dating to the beginning of the solar system. Only about 10% of asteroids in the belt are made of carbonaceous chondrite, the researchers said.

"Our hypothesis explains the composition of the largest confirmed impact crater in Earth's history as well as the largest one within the last million years," the authors wrote.

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