

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Fact and Opinion

- You can prove a **statement of fact** true or false. You can do this by using your own knowledge, asking an expert, or checking a reference source such as an encyclopedia or a nonfiction text.
- A **statement of opinion** gives ideas or feelings, not facts. It cannot be proved true or false.
- A sentence may contain both a statement of fact and a statement of opinion.

**Directions** Read the following passage.

**D**inosaurs are really interesting. I wanted to find out what happened to them so I went to the library to read some articles and books. This is what I found out: About 65 million years ago, dinosaurs became extinct. They had lived on Earth for about 165 million years. That's much longer than humans have been around! Suddenly, they all began to die off. No one knows for sure why this happened.

According to many scientists, an asteroid believed to be about 4.9 miles wide crashed to Earth and caused the extinction. When it crashed it might have scattered dust into the atmosphere, created tidal waves, and caused huge fires. This could have caused sunlight to be blocked for months and for the temperature to drop. Living things on Earth would have had difficulty surviving.

1. Give an example of an opinion from the passage.

2. How can you tell this is an opinion?

3. Give an example of a fact from the passage.

4. How would you prove that this is a fact?

5. Select one statement of fact from the passage. On a separate piece of paper, list as many ways as you can think of to verify it.



**Home Activity** Your child read a short passage and identified facts and opinions. Together, read an editorial from a newspaper or magazine. Identify facts and opinions in the editorial. Ask your child how he or she can tell the difference between the facts and opinions.