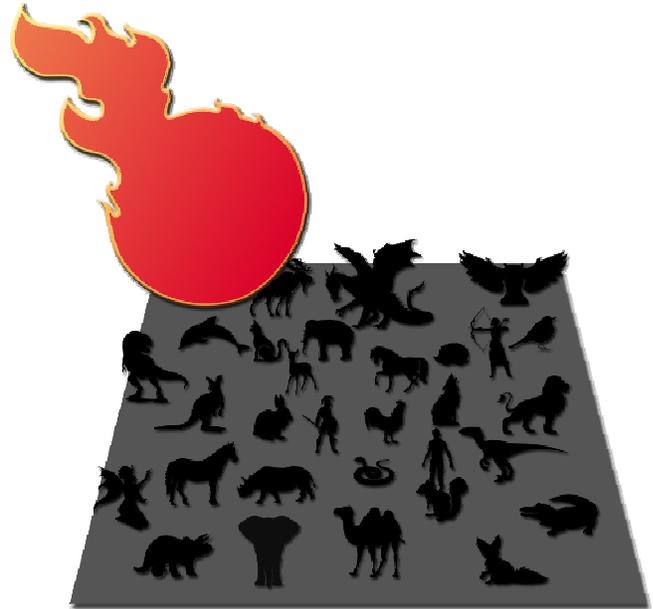


# Extinction Event

**Extinction Event** is a last-piece-standing ball-throwing survival game. Players assemble a set of plastic figures to be on their team of creatures and then take turns throwing "asteroids" to knock them over or to bounce them out of the target area. The last piece remaining is obviously the most well-adapted species to survive this latest threat of extinction. Or maybe just the luckiest!

Players discuss what attributes of their chosen pieces will likely see them through the upcoming cataclysm. This provides the opportunity to introduce / discuss the topics of adaptation and evolution, extinction events, fossils, and, of course, what happened to the dinosaurs.



Ages 5+



1-6 players



5-15 min.

## What You Need to Play

This game requires:

- 1) A number of plastic figures of various animals, dinosaurs, humanoids, etc.
- 2) A variety of bouncy balls, ideally of different sizes
- 3) A platform or low-edged container (eg: a lid from a box of copy paper) to serve as the target area. It should be something that will bounce or vibrate when the balls hit, but not so much as to simply scatter everything on the first strike. (We use a plastic drawer from a toy shelf.)

## Getting Started

Take the following steps to prepare for playing this game:

- 1) Players alternate choosing plastic figures until each player has a team of 5-10 creatures. This number depends on your preference given how big your target area is and how many players there are.
- 2) Once the pieces are selected, players then alternate placing their creatures in the target area. Players are encouraged to utilize the terrain (eg: corners, edges, and even other pieces) to try to get an advantage.

- 3) Next, players select 3 asteroids from whatever collection of bouncy balls are available.
- 4) Finally, players retreat behind a throwing line, set at some agreed to distance from the target area.

### ***Taking Turns***

On your turn:

- 1) Loudly, throw one of your bouncy balls into the target area. *Complete misses still count!*
- 2) Remove any pieces that were toppled or knocked over by your throw.

Turns continue until all bouncy balls have been thrown, or until there is only a single piece left standing.

### ***Winning***

The player whose piece is still standing at the end of the barrage is the winner.

*Pieces from more than one players' team survived? Good news for biodiversity! Everyone wins!*

### ***Additional Rules***

If you have 4 or more players, instead of having all players play at the same time, play the game as a tournament. Players pair up to compete against each other, with the winner from each pair moving on with their team of creatures to play against the other winners – until there is only one player remaining!

### ***Up the Challenge***

To increase the challenge of this game, try designing your own creatures, terrains and disasters. Who can outlast them all?

## **Thanks for Playing!**

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