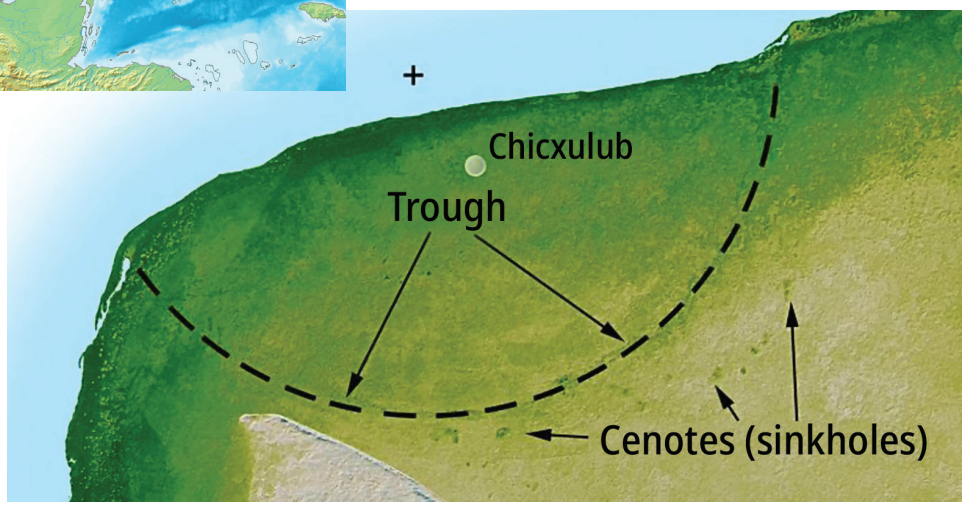
Correlation with an Impact Crater in Mexico

The most popular explanation for the extinction of dinosaurs is an asteroid collision near what is now Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The collision formed a crater about 180 km (112 miles) in diameter, which is now buried deep in the subsurface by more recent sediments. The asteroid is estimated as at least 10 km (6 miles) in diameter, with a speed greater than 50,000 km (30,000 miles) per hour.



Map of the Gulf of Mexico showing the Chicxulub Crater's location

Image: Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain
(location of Chixulub Crater added)



Chicxulub Crater, located on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

Note the pattern of sinkholes (cenotes) that mark the boundary of the crater.

Image: NASA, Public Domain