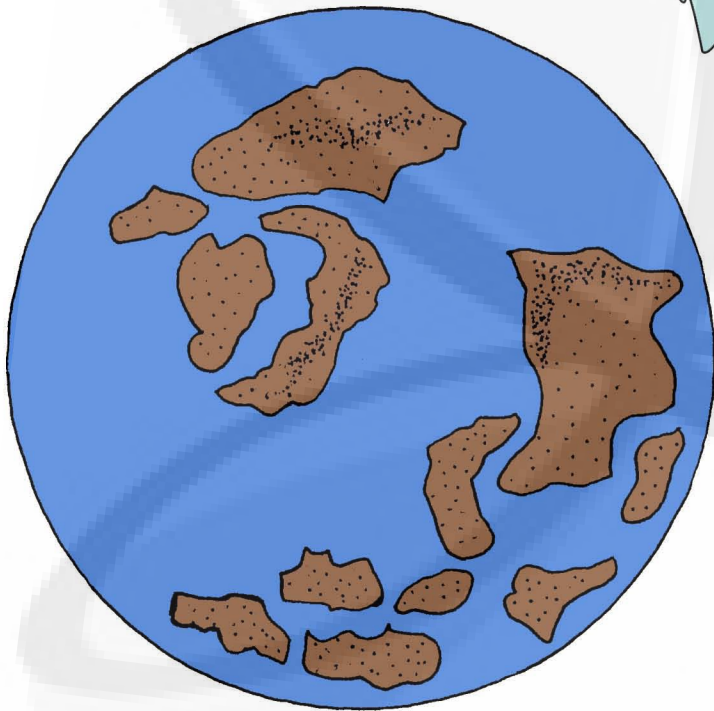


4600 MYA 4000 MYA 3500 MYA 3000 MYA 2500 MYA 2000 MYA 1500 MYA 1000 MYA

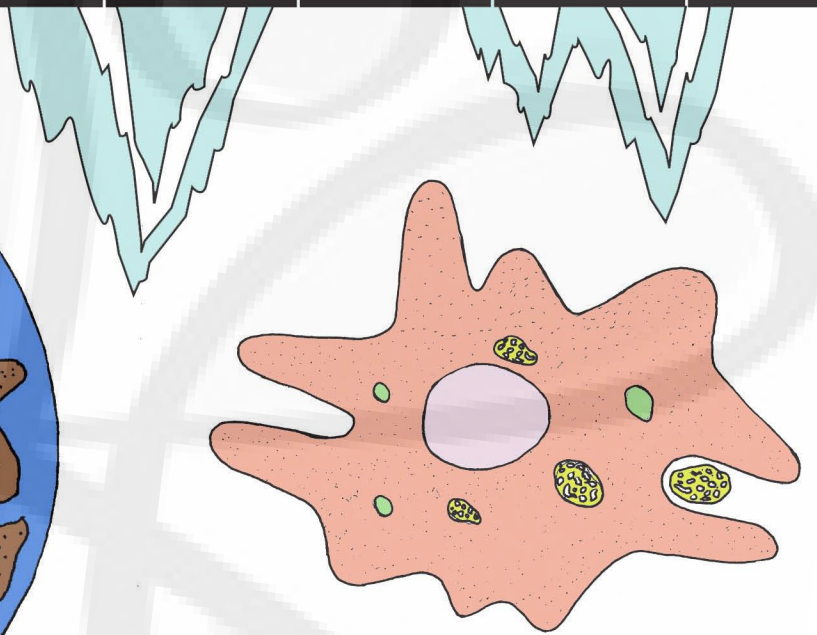
Precambrian Era

pre = before Cambria = Roman name for Wales

4600 MYA



The earth along with the rest of the solar system were formed approximately 4.6 billion years ago. The Precambrian Era totals about 4 billion years, which is more than 80 percent of all geologic time.



Prokaryote, single-celled organism

The earth's atmosphere formed, its crust hardened, rain fell and volcanoes formed, and the oceans were filled with minerals. Continents were formed on plates. Plant-like life began in the water.

Few fossils of life forms have been found from this time.

550 MYA

530 MYA

510 MYA

490 MYA

470 MYA

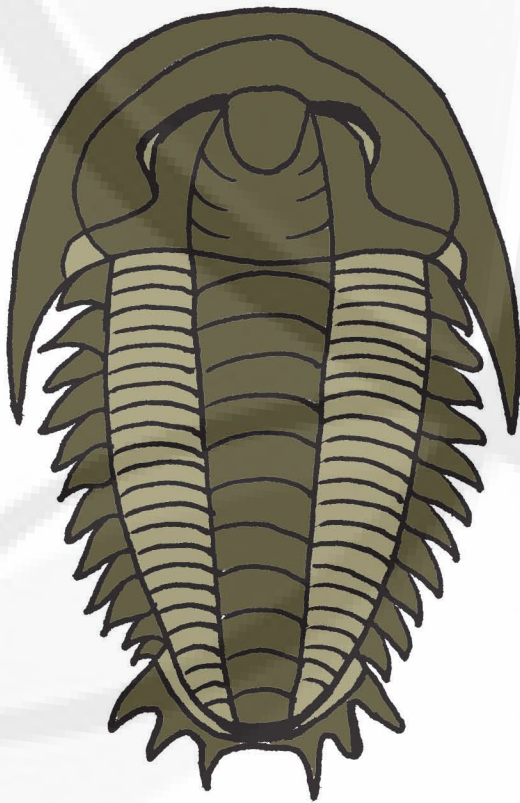
450 MYA

Paleozoic Era

Palaios = ancient zoe = life

543 MYA

Cambrian Period

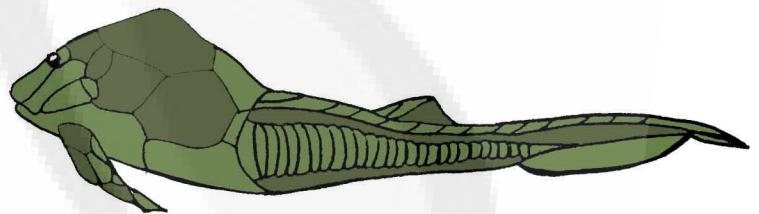
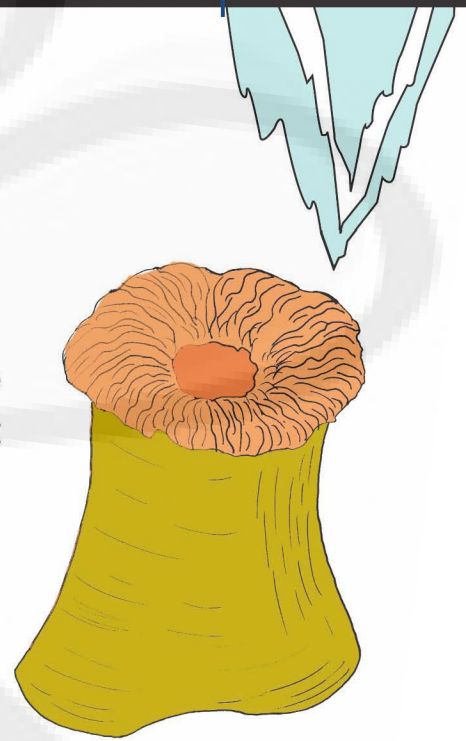


The Cambrian period is significant for the first fossils of shelled organisms. The dominant groups of marine invertebrates are Trilobites and Brachiopods.

490 MYA

Ordovician Period

The Ordovician Period is the second of the Paleozoic Era, and is named from the early Celtic tribe, the Ordovices, that once lived in northwest Wales. Most life in this period lived in the water.



Bony, jawless fishes existed and algae-like plants lived in the water.

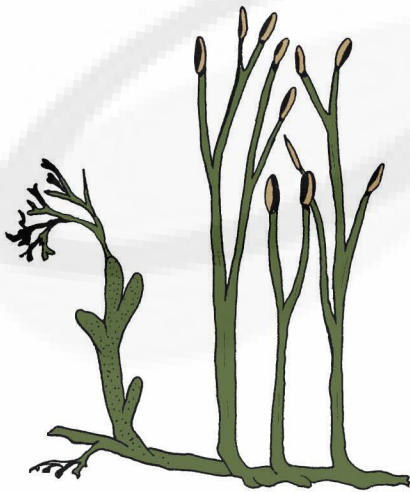
Age of Invertebrates / Age of Trilobites

Paleozoic Era

440 MYA

Silurian Period

Silurian is named for the Silures, an early Celtic tribe from Wales. Coral reefs were extensive, arthropods were common, and vertebrates began to expand.

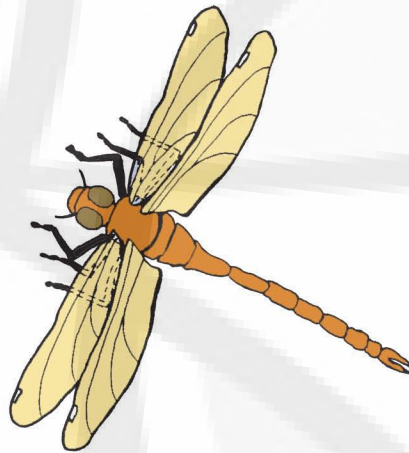


Plants moved onto dry land.

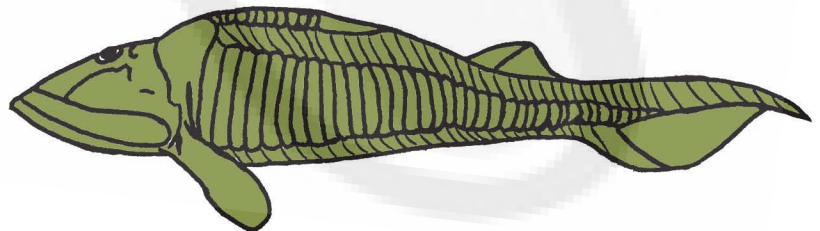
410 MYA

Devonian Period

This period is named for an area in England called Devon, where the rocks from this time are located.



Life began to further develop and moved onto land. Insects and amphibians appeared and aquatic life, particularly fish, was abundant.



Age of Fishes