



What are fossils and what is paleontology?

Paleontology is a science that studies life that existed long ago, primarily by studying fossils. The only direct way we have of learning about dinosaurs is by studying fossils! Fossils are the remains of ancient animals and plants, the traces or impressions of living things from past geologic ages, or the traces of their activities. Fossils have been found on every continent on Earth.


**For more information about the Dunn Seiler
Museum at Mississippi State University
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<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday>

www.geosciences.msstate.edu/museum/htm

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY





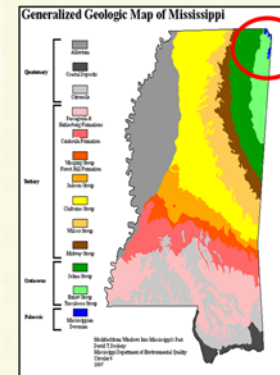
Exogyra



This extinct organism lived in shallow marine water during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods—that means it is old as 200 million years! These extinct animals are related to our modern day oysters.

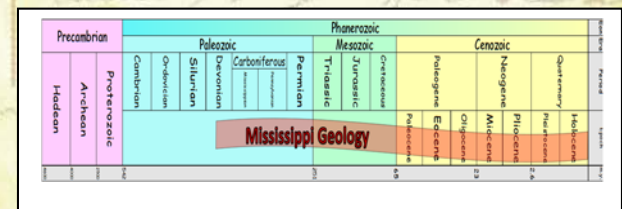
FOSSILS WE HAVE FOUND IN MISSISSIPPI!

Mississippi was under a shallow sea a long time ago during the Cretaceous Period. We find fossils of sharks, fish, and reptiles. One cool animal that lived then is the Hadrosaur, an extinct dinosaur. Hadrosaurs only ate plants like leaves and twigs. The Dunn-Seiler has Hadrosaur remains in the museum!



How can we use fossils?

They can tell us what prehistoric animals ate, their life habits, and defense mechanisms. Fossils can show us what Earth was like a long, long time ago!



What do you get when you cross dinosaurs with fireworks?

.....DINOMITE!! ☺