

CAMBRIAN

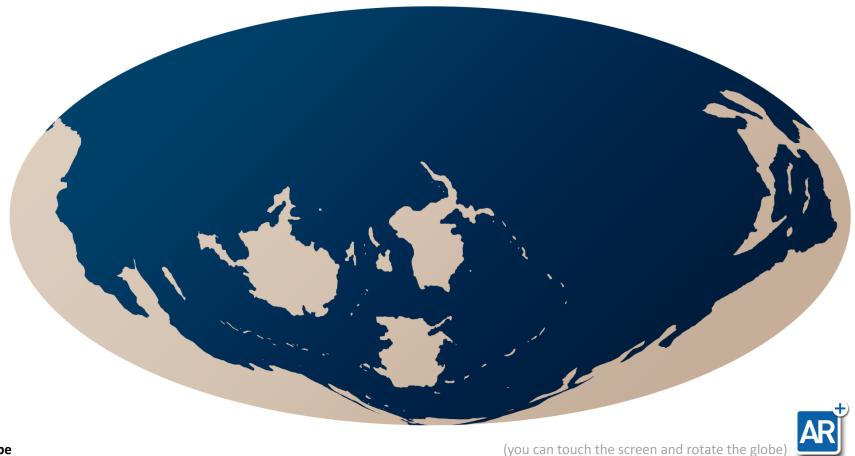
The **Cambrian** period started 541 million years ago and ended 485.4 million years ago.

World climates were mild. The seas were relatively warm, and polar ice was absent for most of the period.

Plants were not yet evolved, only a variety of macroscopic marine plants.

A lot can happen in 40 million years, the approximate length of the Cambrian Period. Animals showed dramatic diversification during this period of Earth's history. This has been called the "Cambrian Explosion".

In that time, the first undoubted fossil annelids, arthropods, brachiopods, echinoderms, molluscs, onychophorans, poriferans, and priapulids showed up in rocks all over the world.



Cambrian globe

The Pannotia supercontinent began to break up and thus the lapetus Ocean could form between Laurentia (North America), Siberia, Baltica (North Europe), and Gondwana (South America, Australia, Africa, India, and Antarctica). Throughout the Cambrian, Siberia remained east of Laurentia, while Baltica was moving south of Siberia and southeast of Laurentia. Gondwana, the largest continent, which stretched from the Equator, was also moving south.



Paradoxides gracilis (Boeck, 1827)

Trilobites are a fossil group of extinct marine arthropods that form the class Trilobita.

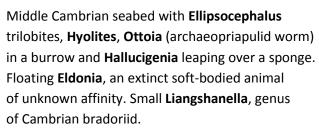
Trilobites form one of the earliest known groups of arthropods.

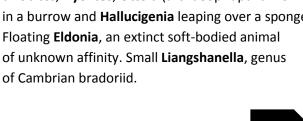
The earliest trilobites are known from Cambrian period cca 540 milion years ago.

Trilobites disappeared in the mass extinction at the end of the Permian about 252 million years ago.























Hyolith Parentilites parens (Barrande, 1867)

This animal was a big question for all scientists for tens of years, until marvellous and perfectly preserved finds were discovered in China.



Ellipsocephalus hoffi (Schlotheim, 1823)



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