



# CAMBRIAN 542

MILLION YEARS AGO

Michigan was part of a continent called Laurentia (lore-en-shuh). Laurentia was centered on the equator and turned so that Michigan was pointing east instead of north like today. Sea levels rose steadily during the Cambrian. By the middle Cambrian most of Laurentia was under water, including what is now Michigan. Throughout this period, life was limited to the oceans. Most creatures developed hard shells for protection from other marine predators. Trilobites, brachiopods, and archeocyathans (ahr-kee-oh-sahy-uh-than, extinct sponge-like animals) dominate the marine fossils found during this period. Many other animals were also present but did not leave fossils because they had no hard parts.