



DEVONIAN 416

MILLION YEARS AGO

Laurentia (North America) collided first with a chain of volcanic islands (the Taconic Island Arc) and later with a microcontinent called Avalonia in the Devonian Period. Most of Laurentia, including what is now Michigan, was still covered by the sea. The Devonian is known as the “Age of Fishes.” Bony fish, ray-finned fish, lobe-finned fish, jawless fish, and placoderms, the heavily armored jawed fish like Dunkleosteus, took over the seas. On land, amphibians moved from water to land for the first time. Fins evolved into limbs, and the first tetrapods or four-limbed creatures inhabited the new forests. At the end of the Devonian Period, another mass extinction occurred that killed mostly marine species.