



ORDOVICIAN 488 MILLION YEARS AGO

Michigan was south of the equator but had slowly rotated so that it lay closer to our current northern orientation. Shallow seas covered the state. Life underwater diversified and coral reefs grew. Evidence of polar ice indicates that the climate cooled during the Late Ordovician Period, and the resulting drop in sea levels may have contributed to a mass extinction. Sixty percent of all marine species became extinct at the end of the Ordovician Period.