



IRELAND'S  

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FOSSIL  

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HERITAGE

# IRISH FOSSILS

What fossils can you find  
in Ireland

What did Ireland look  
like in the past

# Common Irish fossils



Trilobite



Brachiopod



Gastropod



Ammonite

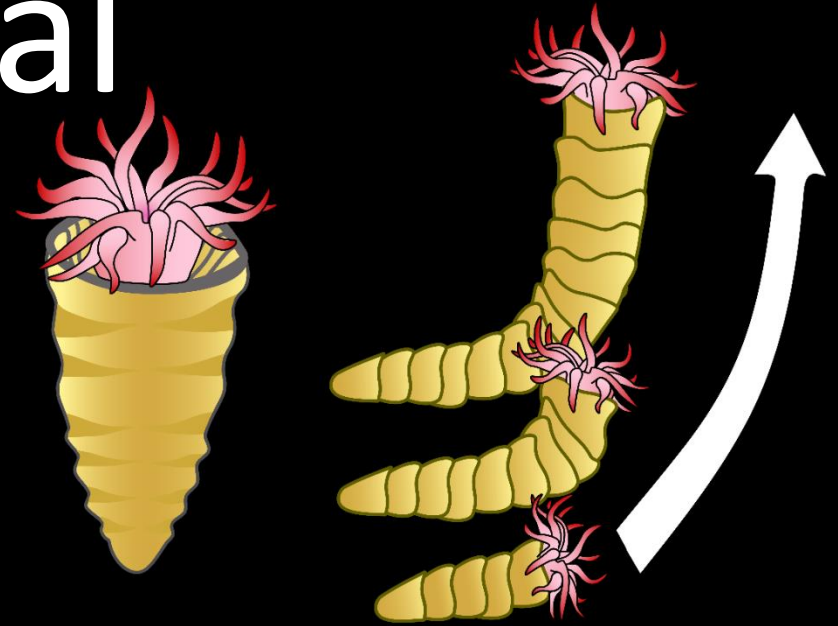


Coral



Crinoid

# Coral

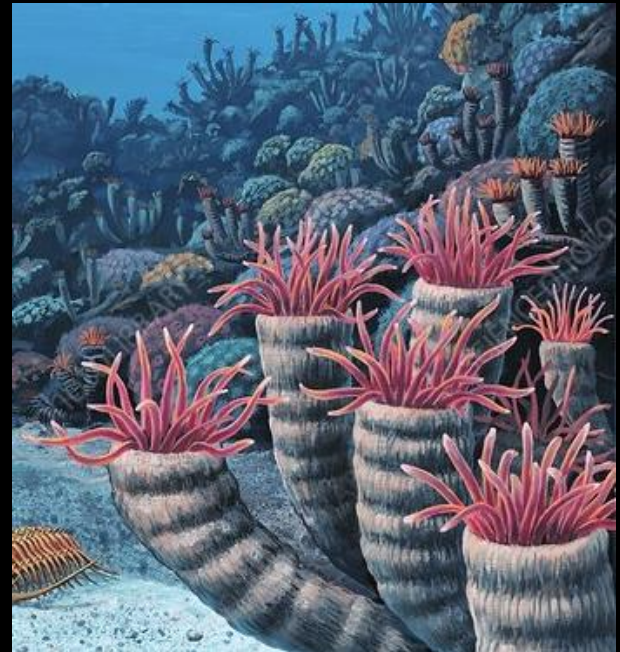


Corals are marine animals that have lots of tentacles like anemones.

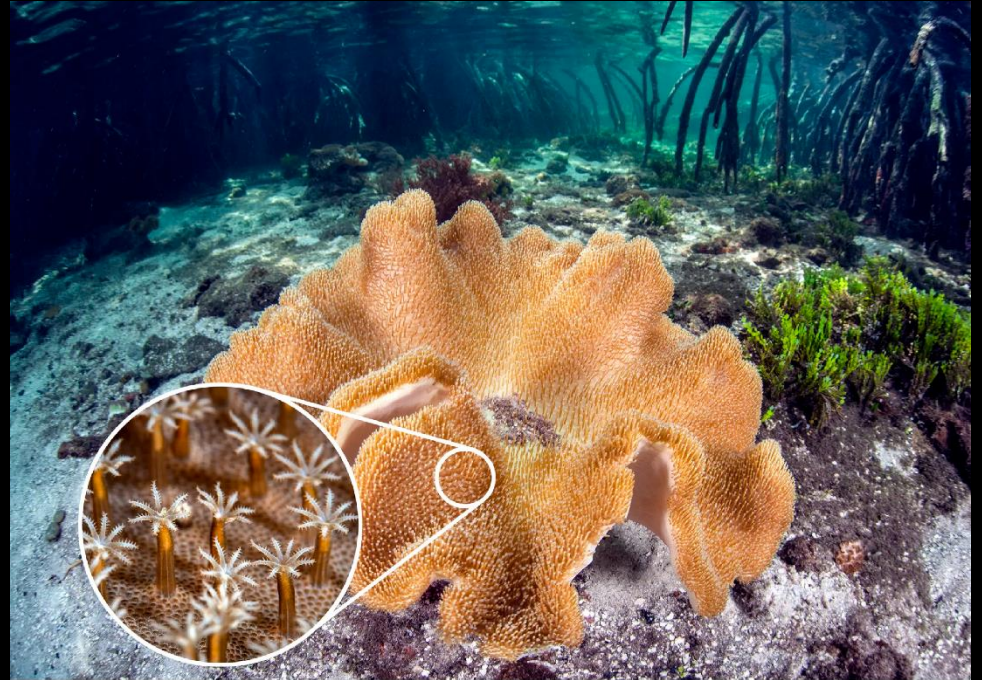
They live at the top of a hard skeleton.

The hard skeleton is the part that is preserved as a fossil.

You can recognise it by its circular shape and radial lines that look like a bicycle wheel!



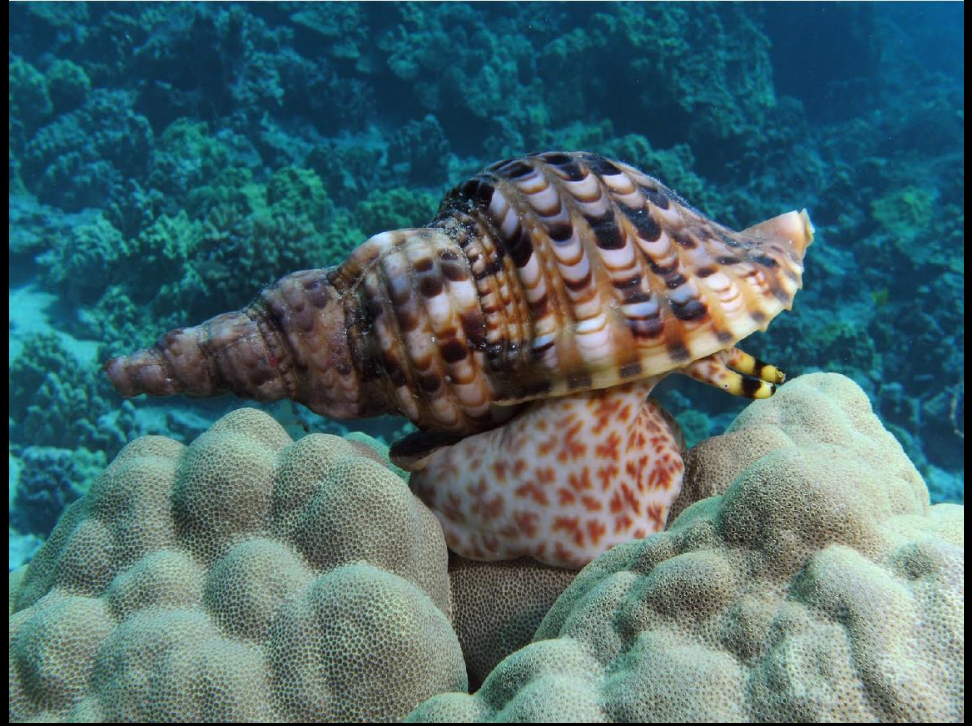
# Coral



This is another type of fossil coral.

It is called a colonial coral as it lived in large groups and shared a common skeleton.

# Gastropods



Gastropods are snails - animals with a hard coiled shell.

This is the part that gets fossilised.

The shell is spiralled or coiled, sometimes vertically into a cone shape and sometimes horizontally along a flat plane.

# Ammonite



Ammonites are a type of cephalopod animal related to modern-day squid and octopus.

Ammonites moved backward through the ocean by expelling water from a funnel like opening below their tentacles.

# Trilobite



Trilobites are arthropods and look like woodlice, but they lived in the sea and their closest living relatives are horseshoe crabs, spiders and sea spiders.

The hard exoskeleton of a trilobite is the part that is preserved as a fossil.



# Brachiopod

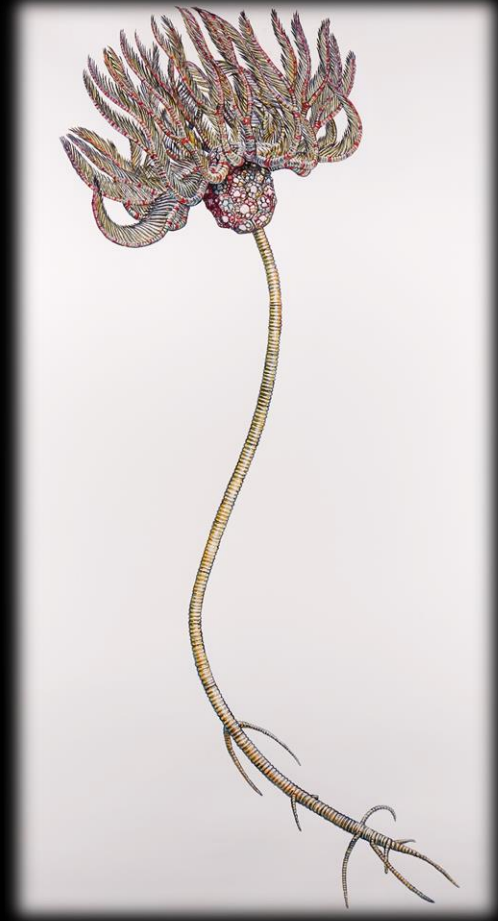


Brachiopods are shellfish with two shells that are hinged on one side (like a door) and can open on the opposite side.

Fossil brachiopods are usually preserved as only one shell.



# Crinoid



Crinoids are marine animals, commonly called sea lillies (but they are not plants!).

Most of the crinoid's hard skeleton is made up of circular plates called ossicles (shaped like polo mints). These are the parts most often fossilised.

# Common Irish fossils



Trilobite



Brachiopod



Gastropod



Ammonite

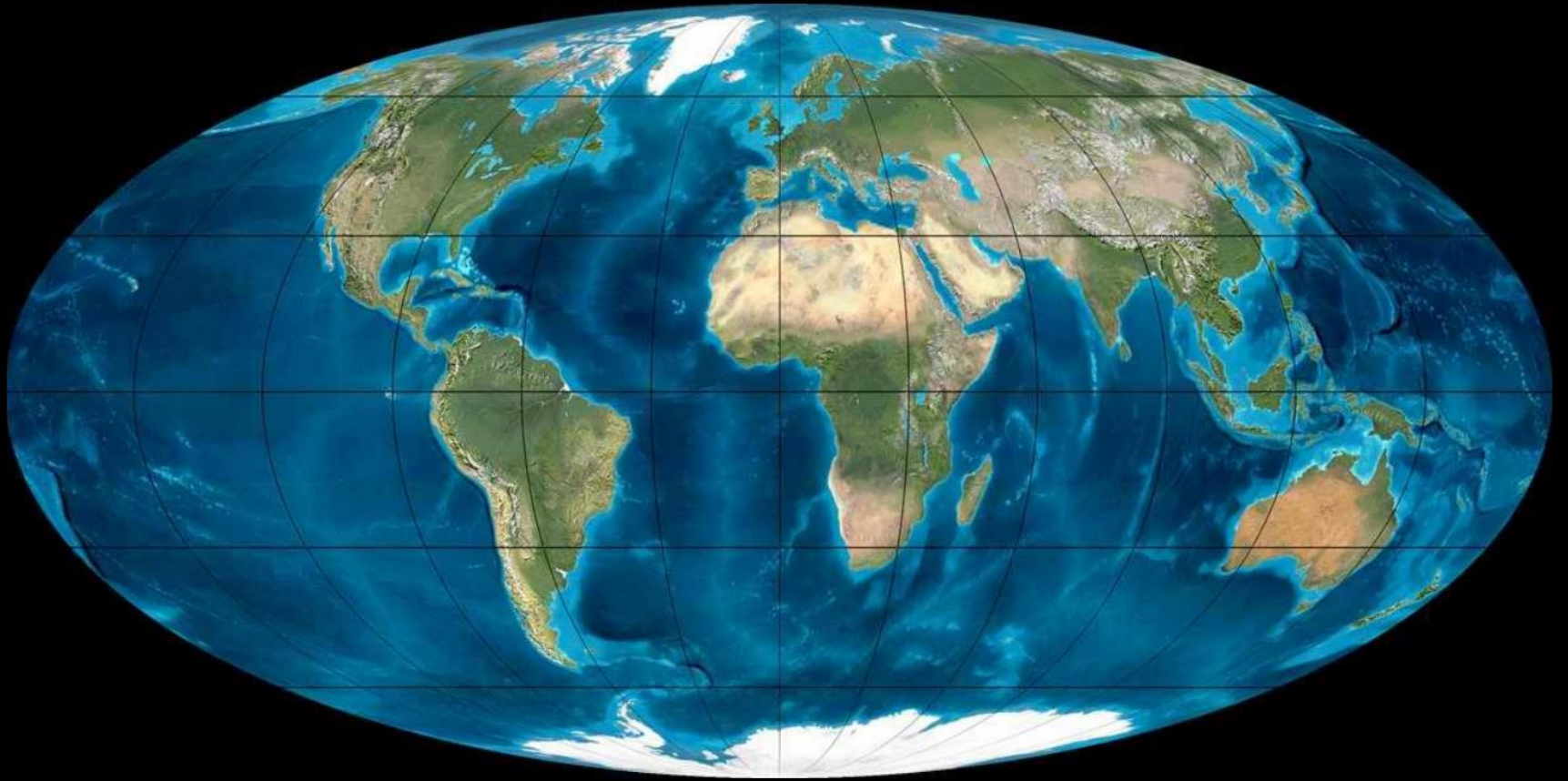


Coral

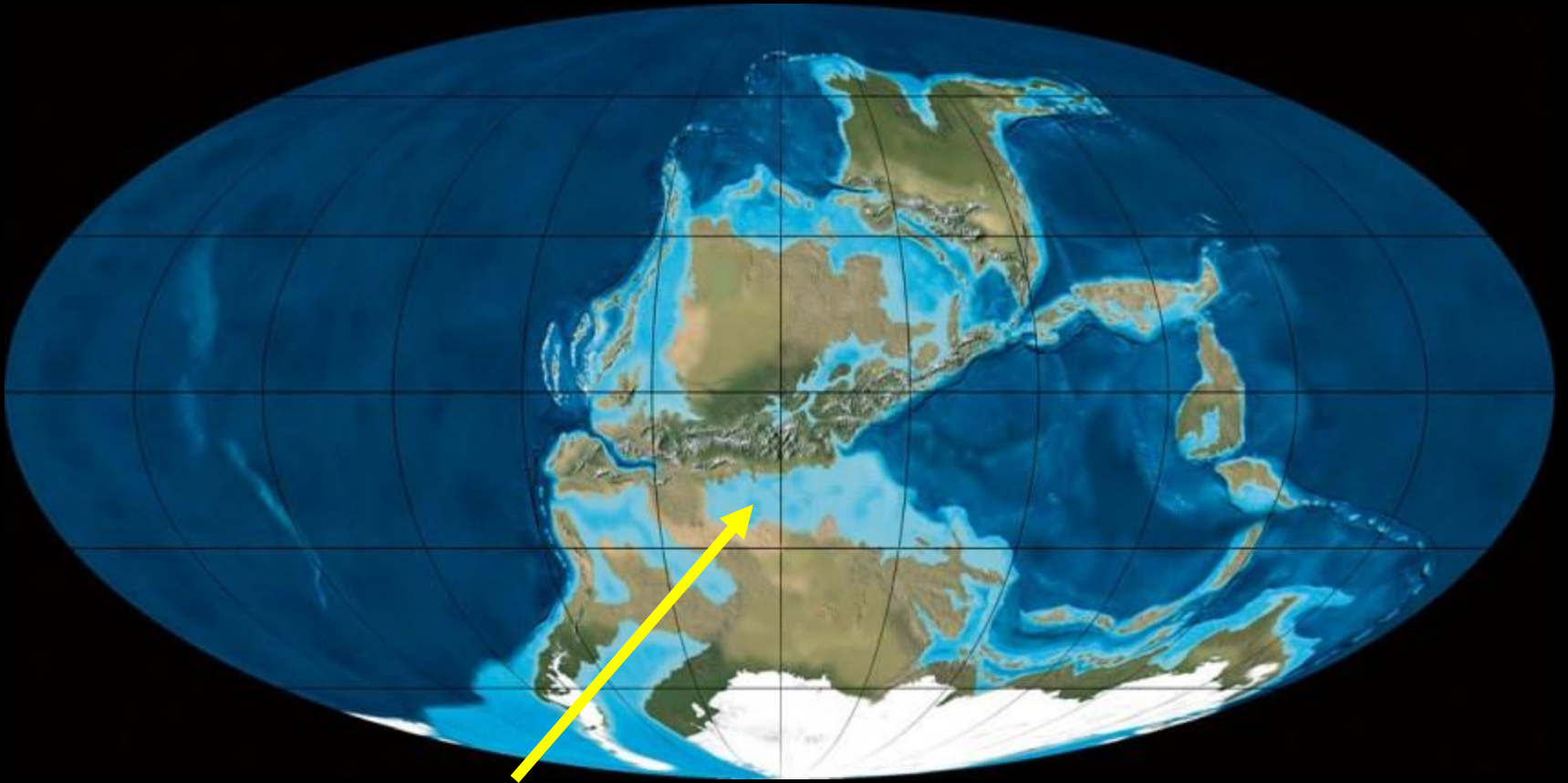


Crinoid

# Ireland Today



# The Carboniferous Period



**Ireland**

Ireland 300 million years ago



300 million years ago



# Other Irish Fossils



**Valentia island tetrapod  
trackway**



**Keraterpeton**



**Archaeopteris**





## Fossil Map of Ireland

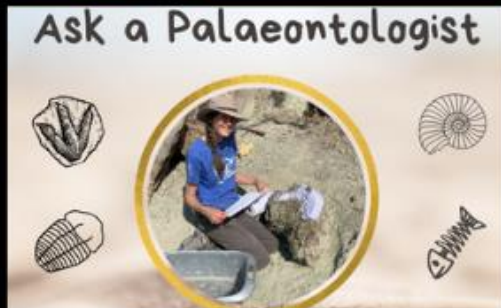
Ireland's Fossil Heritage has developed a fossil map showing you where you can find fossils yourself! The map also shows areas where fossils of special scientific importance have been found in Ireland.

The map also features a number of fossil walking trails set in ten major towns and cities in Ireland and showcases the wonderful fossils that you can find in the buildings and paving stones around us.

Filter by

Clear filters

- Public Sites**  
See real fossils as they are in nature.
- Urban Sites**  
Find fossils on the streets and in the buildings of Ireland's towns and cities.
- Discovery Sites**  
Historic fossil finds of scientific importance.



[WWW.UCC.IE/EN/FOSSIL-HERITAGE/](http://WWW.UCC.IE/EN/FOSSIL-HERITAGE/)

To find out more about Irish fossils check out our website.

We have lots of resources including a fossil map and fossil video game!