

Descriptions of the Utah Fossils Time Periods

1. 300 mya to 550 mya (Paleozoic Period)
 - a. A warm, shallow ocean covered western Utah nearly to where the Wasatch Mountains are today although they didn't exist then.
 - b. Trilobites, brachiopods, gastropods, seashells, horn coral, marine fossils, and crinoids existed then.

2. 149 mya to 195 mya (Jurassic Period)
 - a. A large tropical climate area with many tropical plants and other vegetation. Many swamps and massive forests existed then. There were many lakes and rivers that passed through the areas. This became the land of many dinosaurs. Volcanoes were active at the time. Many volcanoes exploded and covered the trees with volcanic ash and leveled the forests. Eventually the trees became petrified wood.
 - b. Allosaurus, marshasaurus, diplodocus, stegosaurus, and camparsaurus all lived then together. Oysters also made their first appearance then. Even dinosaur footprints can be found at the south end of Utah near the border.

3. 65 mya to 145 mya (Cretaceous Period)
 - a. Still a swampy area where there were many tropical plants and vegetation. High mountains started to form in the western part of Utah. An inland sea moved into the eastern part of the state that went from where Washington State is today to the Gulf of Mexico that went against the western mountains.
 - b. Dinosaurs still roamed the land. The Utah Raptor was one of these dinosaurs where their bones are found in Emery and Grand Counties. However they were on their way out of becoming extinct.

4. 10,000 years ago to 2 mya (Ice Age)
 - a. The climate became cold and ice began to form from the north all the way to the middle of Utah. Many animals such as the mammoth, saber tooth cat were forced to migrate southward.
 - b. Some mammoths and saber tooth cats were caught in the ice age cold and froze to death in the ice but became preserved. Later their remains were found.