

Instructor slides: What can the Fossil Record Tell us?

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Activity Instructions:

Your students are paleontologists for the day, working with a team to study fossils recovered from a field site and to reconstruct and interpret the ancient environment.

Either on their own or with a group, ask them to look at the images of the fossils that have been excavated so far (included in the activity slides). Use the questions in the activity to help them begin to interpret the environment that all of these organisms used to live in.

As an optional activity, students can also sketch reconstructions of the organisms based on the photos of fossils. They can reference living animals on their own for inspiration on colors and patterns to give them.

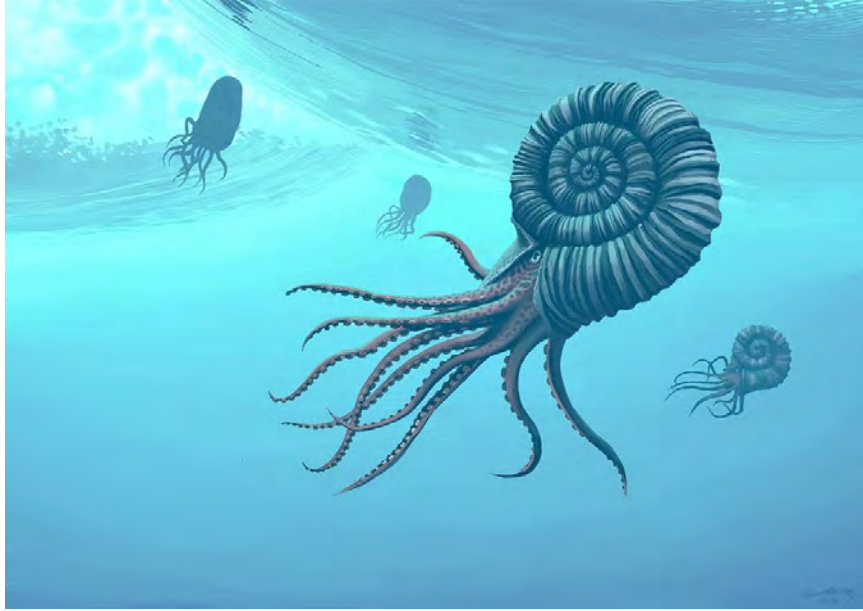
The following slides contain reconstructions of the fossils. The students can use them to inspire their own reconstructions, or you can use them as a key after they've had time to work on their own. They should be shown before students work on Part 3, the final environmental interpretations.



Cupressinoxylon



Nelumbonaceae



Conlinoceras



Exogyra



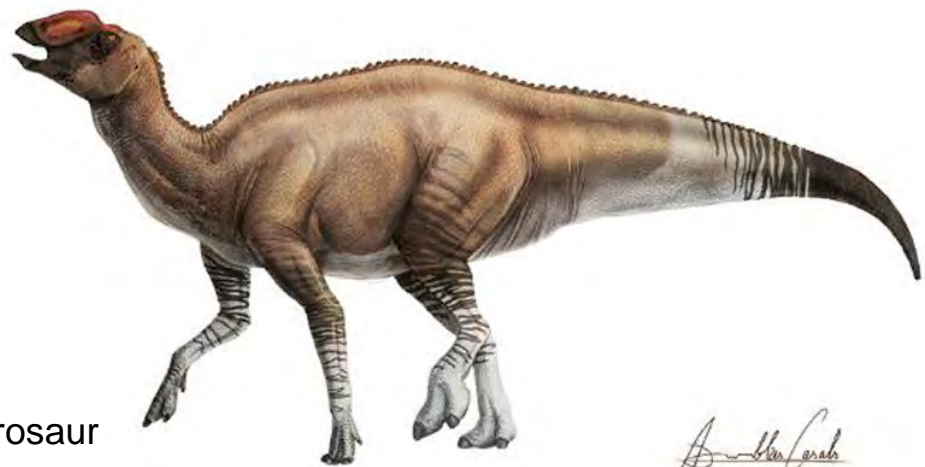
Tyrannosaurus rex



Hesperornis



Mosasaurus



Hadrosaur

Amber Gosh