CARBONIFEROUS PERIOD (359.2-299 Ma)

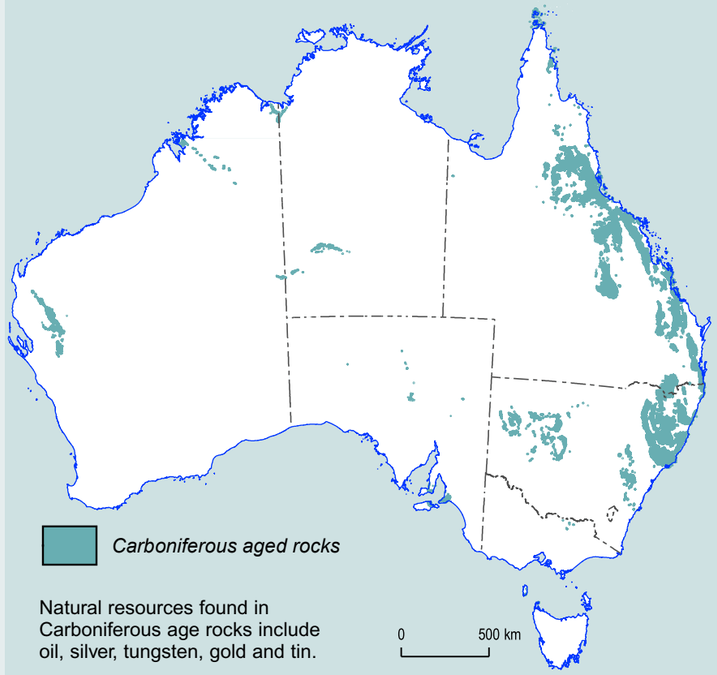
Geological TimeWalk

After the establishment of forests in the late Devonian Period, atmospheric oxygen levels dramatically increased and allowed the **evolution of large land arthropods and amphibians.**

Fossil millipede-like animals 1.5 metres long and relatives of dragonflies, with wingspans of 75 centimetres, have been found in Carboniferous rocks. The **first reptiles evolved.**

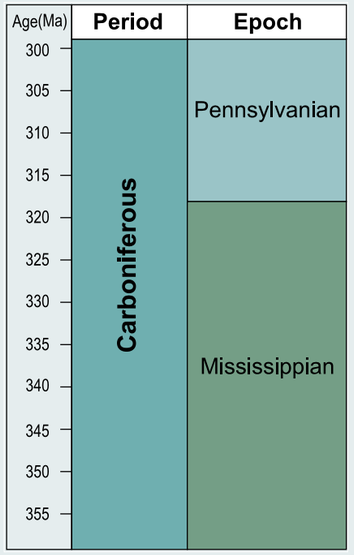
Gondwana collided with other large continents to form a new supercontinent known as **Pangaea**. Throughout the period, Pangaea drifted further south and was located mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. This continental movement is thought to be the cause of the Carboniferous ice age. Within Pangaea, Australia was close to the South Pole and was partly covered by ice.

Carboniferous rocks and resources in Australia



Natural resources found in Carboniferous age rocks include oil, silver, tungsten, gold and tin.

Carboniferous Timescale



Turtle No 2 Oil is derived from rocks containing Carboniferous algae, bacteria and land plants in shallow sea.

During this period a chain of active volcanoes rising out of the sea formed a volcanic island arc that stretched from south of Sydney to northern Queensland.

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