# SILURIAN PERIOD (443.7-416 Ma)

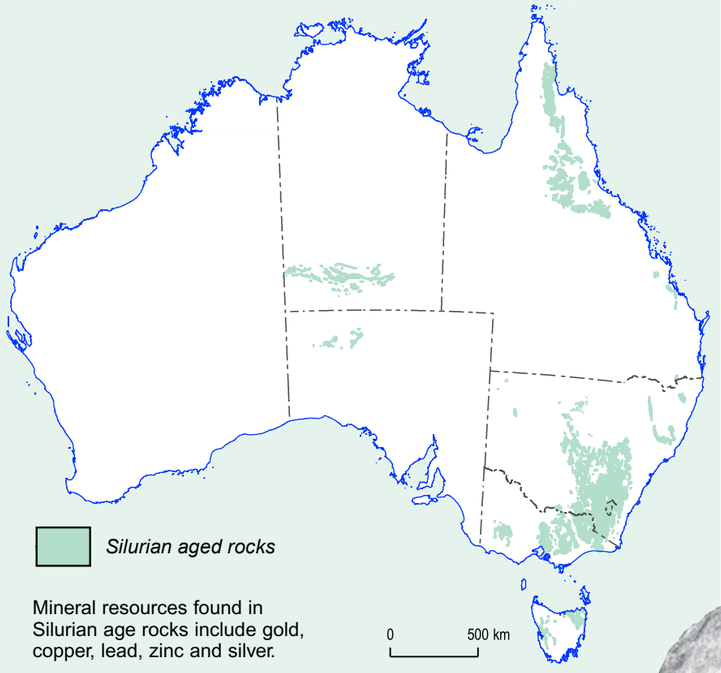
Geological TimeWalk

Temperatures increased following the ice age in the Ordovician Period, causing the ice caps to melt and sea levels to rise. The Earth entered a **long warm phase** which continued for 130 million years.

Life flourished in the oceans. Animals resembling millipedes and centipedes spread over the land. **Vascular plants increased in complexity and size**, enabling them to live away from water bodies.

The supercontinent Gondwana drifted south throughout this period and extended from just south of the Equator to the South Pole. Australia was at its northern end and had moved to just south of the Equator.

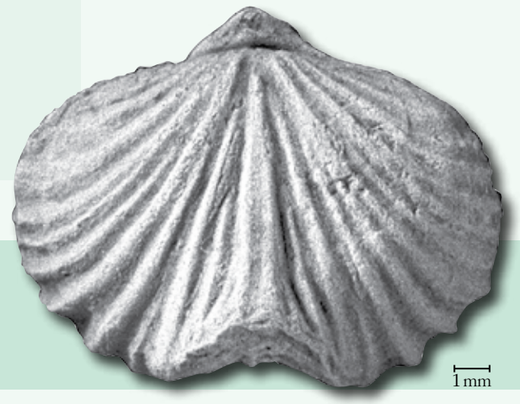
**Silurian rocks and resources in Australia**




Mineral resources found in Silurian age rocks include gold, copper, lead, zinc and silver.

**Silurian Timescale**

| Age(Ma) | Period | Epoch |
|---|---|---|
| | Silurian | Pridoli |
| 420 | | Ludlow |
| 425 | | Wenlock |
| 430 | | Llandovery |
| 435 | | |
| 440 | | |




***Spirigerina mitchelli*** **is an example of a Silurian brachiopod from Yass, New South Wales.**

Many of the granitic rocks that form the alpine areas around Mount Kosciuszko in New South Wales are from the Silurian Period.

Australian Government
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