CAMBRIAN PERIOD (542-488.3 Ma)

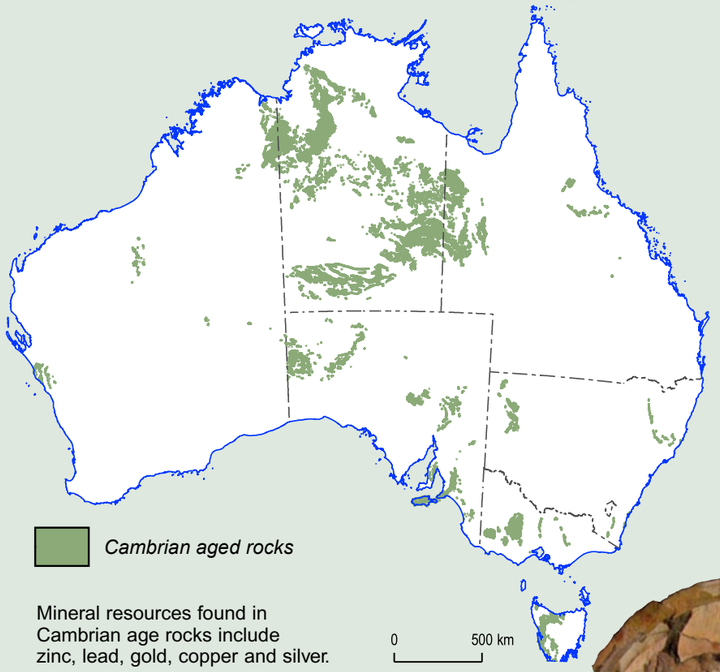
Geological TimeWalk

Life on Earth changed dramatically with the **'Cambrian Explosion'** when many new species evolved, including trilobites and other arthropods, molluscs, echinoderms and vertebrates. **Life invaded the land** in the form of algae, fungi and lichen that grew in areas adjacent to ancient lakes, rivers and oceans.

The Earth's climate was warmer and **sea levels were higher**. Many areas of Australia were submerged. Australia was part of the supercontinent of Godwana and lay just north of the Equator.

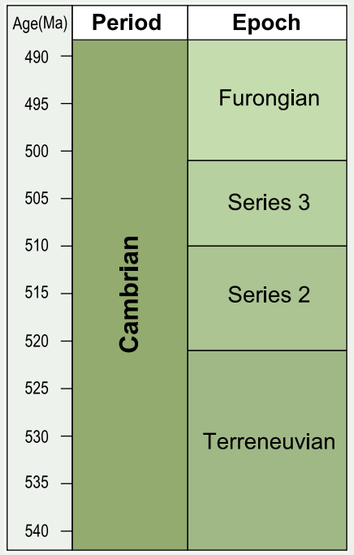
Many of the Cambrian trilobites and brachiopods did not survive into the Ordovician Period.

Cambrian rocks and resources in Australia



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

Cambrian Timescale



Redlichia takooensis **is an example of a Cambrian trilobite from Kangaroo Island, South Australia.**

Uluru in the Northern Territory is composed of sandstone deposited in the early Cambrian Period, when much of central Australia was covered by an inland sea.

Australian Government
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