PERMIAN PERIOD (299-251 Ma)

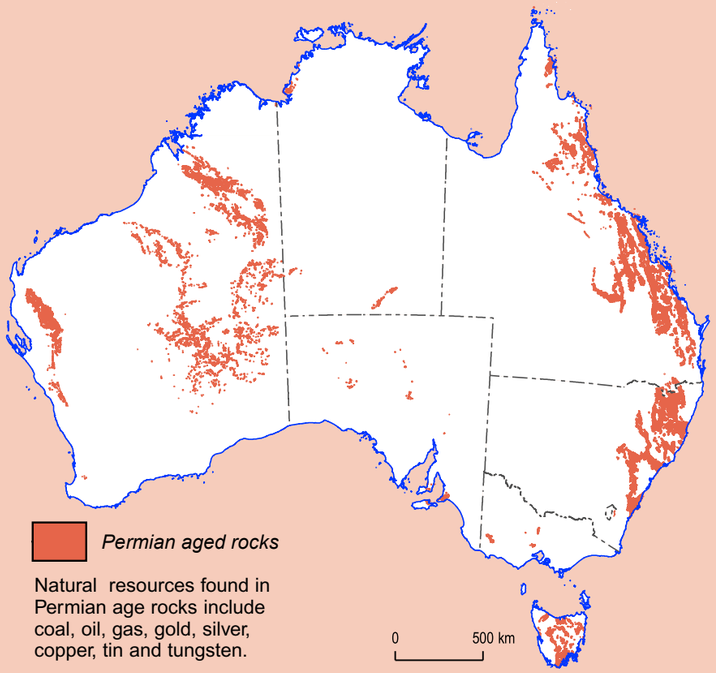
Geological TimeWalk

Following the Carboniferous ice age, temperatures on Earth rose slowly. Pangaea began drifting north.

Life flourished, with beetles and ammonites appearing and an extraordinary diversification of reptiles. Cycads, palm-like plants that exist today, and the Glossopteris seed-fern evolved. Fossils of Glossopteris found in South America, southern Africa, Madagascar, India, Australia and Antarctica, provide evidence that these continents were once combined.

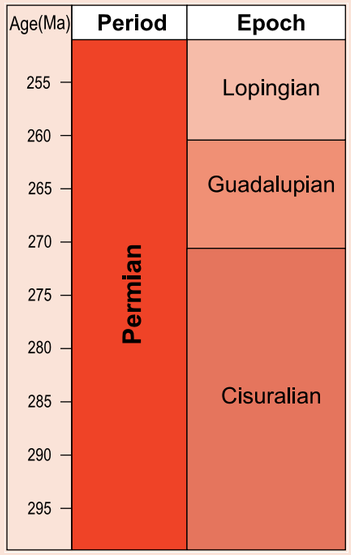
Massive volcanic eruptions in Siberia occurred at the end of the Permian Period and continued for over a million years. This caused the **Earth's 3rd major, and greatest mass extinction event,** wiping out 95% of all species.

Permian rocks and resources in Australia



Natural resources found in Permian age rocks include coal, oil, gas, gold, silver, copper, tin and tungsten.

Permian Timescale



Glossopteris duocordata **is a shrub to tree-sized seed fern that grew near Mudgee, New South Wales in the Permian Period.**

Early in the Permian Period, parts of Australia were covered by ice and would have resembled present-day Antarctica.

Australian Government
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