CRETACEOUS PERIOD (145.5-65.5 Ma)

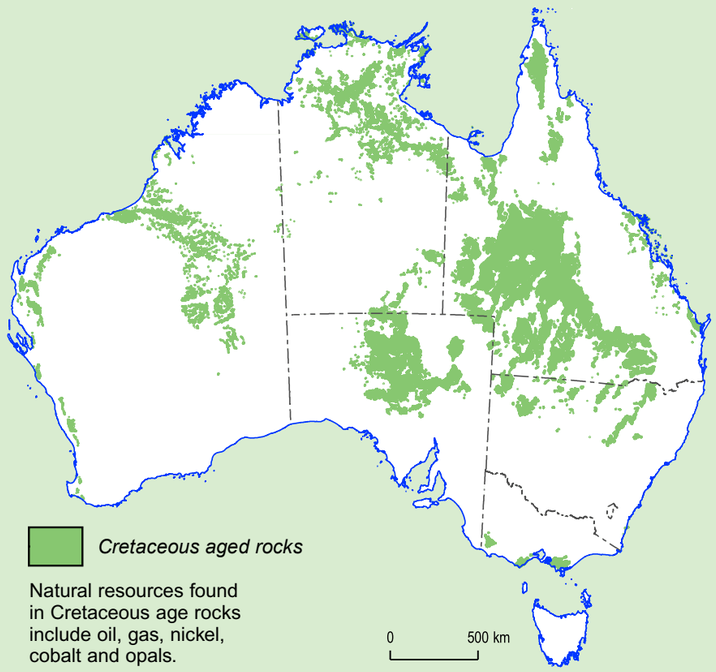
Geological TimeWalk

Large dinosaurs dominated the landscape. The first flowering plants appeared. Insects diversified dramatically. Pollinating insects such as bees appeared: an example of coevolution.

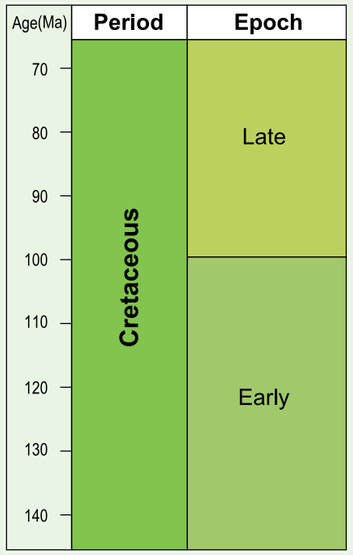
Gondwana separated into West Gondwana (current day South America, Africa, Madagascar and India) and East Gondwana (current day Australia and Antarctica). **Australia began to separate from Antarctica** and commence its journey northwards.

At the end of this period, the **Earth's 5th and most recent major mass extinction** occurred: 75% of all species vanished, including the dinosaurs. At this time, a **large meteorite** hit Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and there were huge volcanic eruptions in India. There is still debate about the role of these events in the mass extinction event.

Cretaceous rocks and resources in Australia



Cretaceous Timescale



Footprints of the dinosaur stampede that occurred in Winton, Queensland during the Cretaceous Period.

Cretaceous Period rocks from Winton in central Queensland contain thousands of preserved dinosaur footprints thought to have been created during a dinosaur stampede.

Australian Government
Geoscience Australia