DEVONIAN PERIOD (416-359.2 Ma)

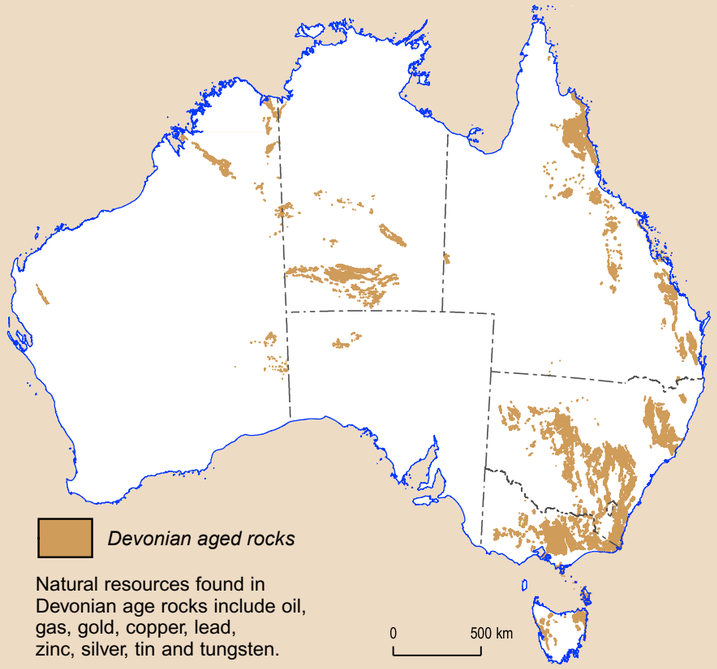
Geological TimeWalk

Gondwana covered the South Pole, with Australia still at its northern end just south of the Equator. Global temperatures were on average six degrees warmer than today and sea levels were high.

The **first lungfish, amphibians, insects and sharks** appeared. The **first tree-size plants** also evolved and formed the first forests.

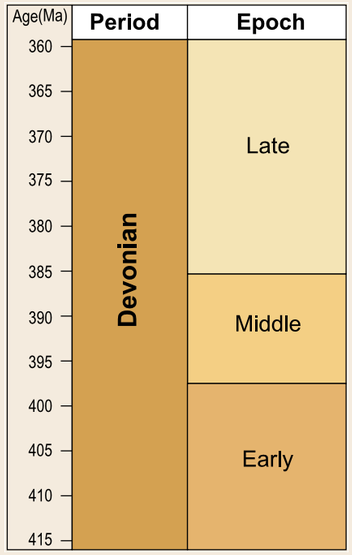
Later in this period, 70% of all species disappeared in the **2nd of the Earth's Big 5 mass extinction events.** This was probably caused by changes in global weather and erosion patterns due to the rapid diversification of land plants. Water runoff into the sea had dramatic effects on the ocean's chemistry, and many marine species became extinct.

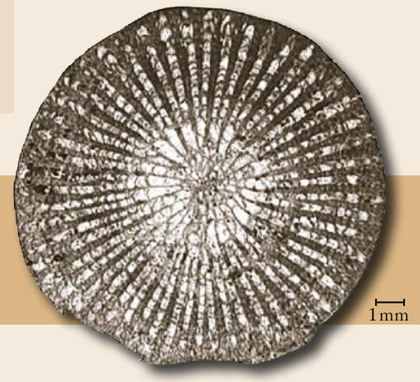
Devonian rocks and resources in Australia



Natural resources found in Devonian age rocks include oil, gas, gold, copper, lead, zinc, silver, tin and tungsten.

Devonian Timescale





***Spinophyllum prolatum*, a cross section of a solitary coral from the Devonian Period, found in the Kimberley Region, Western Australia.**

During the Devonian Period, a large coral reef grew in what is now the Windjana Gorge area of the Kimberley Region in Western Australia.

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