TRIASSIC PERIOD (251-199.6 Ma)

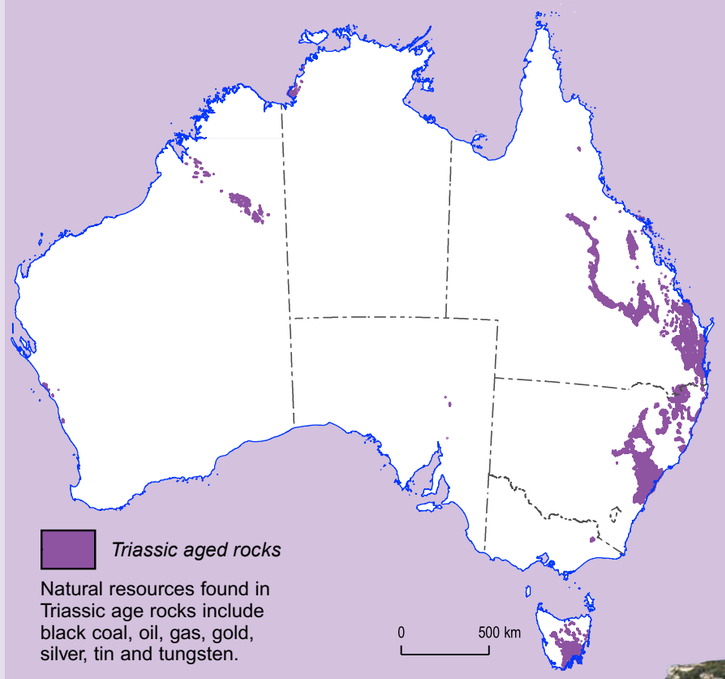
Geological TimeWalk

After the harsh conditions of the Permo-Triassic extinction, the Earth's remaining plants and animals took several million years to recover. Oxygen levels were low, but as plant populations diversified, atmospheric oxygen rose steadily.

Later in this period, the **first dinosaurs, marine reptiles, mammals, turtles, crocodiles and modern corals evolved**.

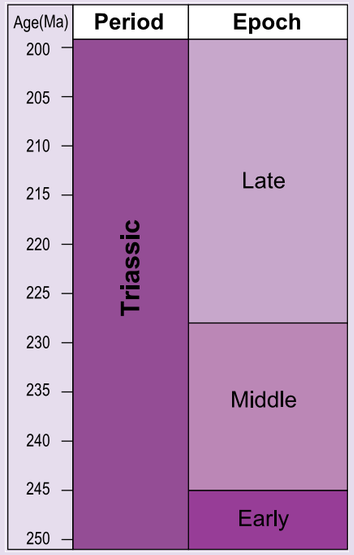
The supercontinent **Pangaea began to rift** apart towards the end of this period, with Australia drifting north away from the South Pole. At this time, several massive volcanic eruptions occurred, causing the **4th of the Earth's Big 5 mass extinction events**, known as the Triassic-Jurassic extinction. This resulted in the **destruction of 50% of all species** on Earth.

Triassic rocks and resources in Australia



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

Triassic Timescale



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Hawkesbury Sandstone an example of red stained sandstones deposited in a typical braided stream system of the Triassic Period.

The Hawkesbury Sandstone which forms most of the cliffs in and around Sydney was deposited during the Triassic Period.

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