



CRETACEOUS PERIOD (145-65 MILLION YEARS AGO)

THE FIRST FLOWERING PLANTS AND THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF DINOSAURS

Prior to the Cretaceous Period, the Mesozoic landscape was covered with conifers, cycads, ferns, and ginkgos. The Cretaceous Period saw the appearance and expansion of the angiosperms or flowering plants. The more ancient groups of plants persisted but diminished in importance. Sauropod dinosaurs also endured, but new groups such as duck-billed dinosaurs (hadrosaurs) and horned dinosaurs (ceratopsians) became prominent. Mammals were still small, shrew-like animals.

Cretaceous Vertebrates

- Dinosaur egg, "Faveololithus"**
(Cretaceous, Kaoguo Formation, Xixia County, Henan Province, China)
HMNS 1086
- Dinosaur egg, *Hypselosaurus priscus***
Cretaceous, Aix-en-Provence, France)
HMNS 944
Museum purchase made possible by Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Lindveit
- Hadrosaur or duck-billed dinosaur (lambeosaur) jaw**
(Cretaceous, Judith River Formation, Alberta)
HMNS 1031
- Hadrosaur or duck-billed dinosaur (lambeosaur) teeth**
(Cretaceous, Judith River Formation, Alberta)
HMNS 1032
- Dinosaur tooth, *Albertosaurus***
(Cretaceous, Judith River Formation, near Lewiston, Montana)
HMNS 945
Albertosaurus was a slightly smaller, close relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Museum purchase made possible by the Lillie and Roy Cullen Endowment Fund

Mammal Teeth:

Throughout the Mesozoic Era, the mammals remained small, usually the size of mice or rats, but the largest was the size of a house cat.

- Tooth of a marsupial or pouched mammal, *Didelphodon vorax***
(Cretaceous, Hell Creek Formation, McCone County, Montana)
HMNS 1037
- Tooth of a Cretaceous mammal, *Catopsalis***
Catopsalis was a member of an extinct group of mammals called multituberculates. These mammals had blade-like cheek teeth and are unrelated to living mammals.
(Cretaceous, Hell Creek Formation, McCone County, Montana)
HMNS 1038
- Tooth of a Cretaceous mammal, *Protungulatum***
Protungulatum was part of the ancestral stock from which all hoofed mammals evolved.
(Cretaceous, Hell Creek Formation, McCone County, Montana)
HMNS 1036

Cretaceous Invertebrates:

- Oyster, *Esogyra costata***
(Cretaceous, Ripley Formation, Chester County, Tennessee)
HMNS 668
Gift of Exxon Production Research Company
- Snail, *Nerita***
(Cretaceous, Normandy, France)
HMNS 657
Gift of Jules A. Vern
- Sea urchin, *Micraster coranguinum***
(Cretaceous, Turonian Fm., Tancarville, Normandy, France)
HMNS 658
Gift of Jules A. Vern
- Sponge, *Raphidonema macropora***
(Cretaceous, Aptian, Faringdon, England)
HMNS 50
- Oyster, *Rastellum (Arctostrea) carinatum***
(Cretaceous, Cenomanian, La Heve Cliffs, Normandy, France)
HMNS 660
Gift of Jules A. Vern
- Ammonite, *Acriceras pulcherrimum***
(Cretaceous, Nyons, (Drôme), France)
HMNS 519
- Pecten, *Chlamys (Aequipecten) asper***
(Cretaceous, La Heve Cliffs, Normandy, France)
HMNS 659
Gift of Jules A. Vern



Mountains Land Shallow Seas Deep Sea Oceans

