

NAUTILOID EVOLUTION

Paleozoic Era

Mesozoic Era

Cenozoic Era

Woven-coned Cephalopods
Impressariidae

Inner-coned Cephalopods
Endoceras



Rod-like Cephalopods
Actinoceras



Ringed Nautiloids
Dactyloceras

Straight-shelled Nautiloids
Orthoceras

Inner-bag Nautiloids
Ancoceras

Barrande's Nautiloids
Barrandoceras



Earliest Coiled Nautiloids
Trochoceras

Swollen Nautiloids
Draconoceras



Rootstock Nautiloids
Elioceras

Streamlined Nautiloids
Nautilus



From a common ancestor, this group of animals evolved the diverse forms you see above. Notice the inner chambers visible in some of the fossils on display. These chambers allowed the nautiloids (and nautilus) to move like submarines through the ancient seas. By filling them with air and liquid, the animals controlled their depth in the water. Today, nautiloids sink and float in the same manner.

Each animal is given a descriptive name. Striketh is the scientific name of that group.