

Evidence #1

Trilobites were small animals that lived at the bottom of the ocean. They fed on organic matter in sediment on the ocean floor. Because trilobite fossils are so abundant and well preserved in the limestone and shale rock of Ohio, they were officially named the state fossil.

Evidence #5

Fossils of coral reefs have been found in deep water off the coast of Texas. Coral reefs require sunlight to form. Sunlight cannot reach deep water. These coral reefs are about 19,000 years old.

Evidence #2

Leaf fossils from Wyoming found in a deep rock layer show a climate that is cooler than the climate of the leaf fossils found above it.

Evidence #6

North Dakota is in a temperate grassland biome. Fossils found in the Hell Creek rock formation include pollen from ground ferns and palm trees, which grow in a tropical ecosystem.

Evidence #3

The Svalbard forest in Arctic Norway is filled with fossils of tropical trees, called lycopsid. These trees lived hundreds of millions of years ago.

Evidence #7

Many large geographic areas, like the Blue Ridge and Piedmont regions in Georgia, are made up of metamorphic and igneous rock. Fossils are not usually found in these types of rock.

Evidence #4

Mesosaurus is an ancient, large, lizard-like creature. These fossils have only been found in two places on Earth, the southern tip of Africa and eastern South America.

Evidence #8

Hallucigenia is a fossil that was first discovered in the 1970's. Recent discoveries show that scientists pictured this organism upside down and backwards for years.