

# karats



## Fossil Trilobite

Cambrian (550,000,000 years)

Trilobites are extinct marine animals that first appeared in the early Cambrian period (6,000,000,000 years ago), then diversified into many families and genera. By Permian time (240,000,000 years ago) they completely disappeared. During a 360,000,000 year life span, more than 10,000 species are recognized. Like other Arthropods (crabs, spiders and insects) they shed their skin at certain stages of growth. It is these sheds that we find most often in the fossil record.