

BONE BEDS

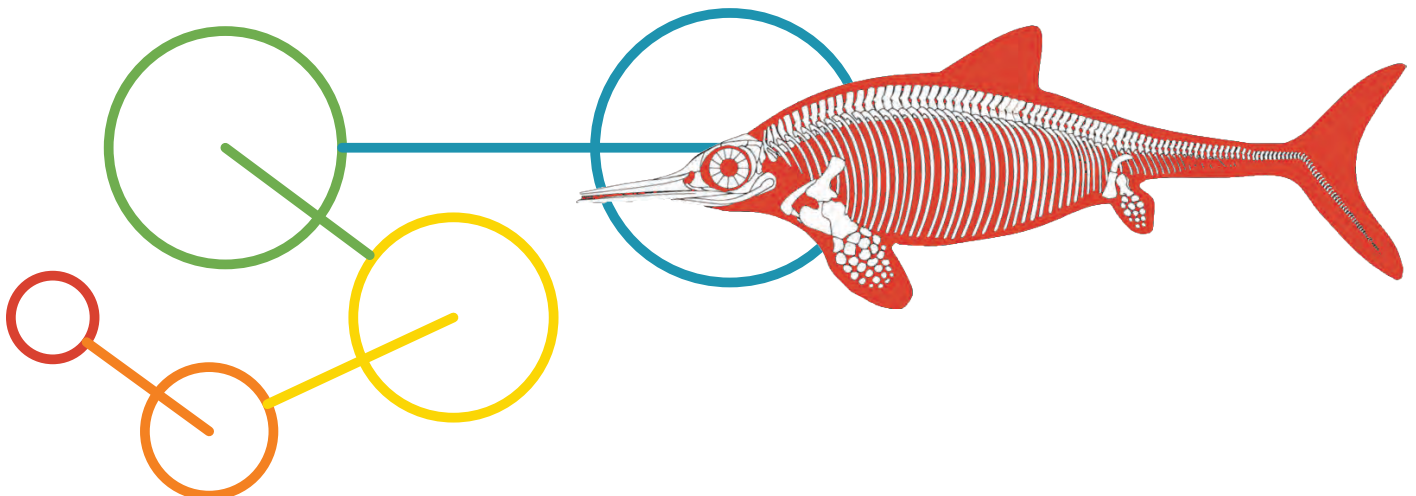


George was discovered in 1913, in the Upper Cretaceous sediments of Red Deer Valley, Alberta. He was found in what is commonly known as a bone bed. Bone beds are geological deposits containing tens to thousands of skeletons preserved together. These types of sedimentary deposits are found across the globe. Many bone beds are modern, but the term is most often used to describe fossil deposits, which yield unique paleontological information about ancient fauna.

Fossils are most commonly found in sedimentary rocks because unlike most igneous and metamorphic deposits, the rocks form at temperatures and pressures which don't destroy them. Sediments are deposited and compressed to form layers that preserve a record of ancient landscapes and organisms. Scientists can use the fossils present in the rocks to determine the relative age of the sedimentary rock layers.

Let's reconstruct the geological history of some rocks!

On the next page, you'll find **rock layers A - E**. Help us place them in the correct **order!** Using scissors, cut out each layer. The law of superposition states that each sedimentary rock layer will be younger than the one below it, and older than the one above. Begin by placing the oldest layer on the bottom and building up. Each corresponding layer will contain some of the same organisms as the one below it, and some new. Use the organisms found in the rock layers to guide you.



ACTIVITY SHEET



A



Derbyia



Pines



Sharks



Gingko



Lepidodendron



Dimetrodon



Ammonites



Eurypteris

B



Flowering plants



Ammonites



Sharks



George (Lambeosaurus)



Mammals



Pines



Gingko



Belemnites

Oldest Layer

C



Ammonites



Pines



Eurypteris



Sharks



Trilobites



Rhodocrinites

D



Ammonites



Pines



Belemnites



Ceratites



Derbyia



Sharks



Gingko

E



Flowering plants



Mammals



Horses



Gingko



Homo sapiens



Pines



Sharks