**Trilobites**

**The Diversity and Antiquity of Life**

**Trilobites** are one of the first animals in the fossil record to develop complex eyes (as opposed to the light-sensitive spots that passed as early eyes). So understanding trilobite vision is also understanding the origins of eyes themselves.

**Trilobite** fossils are found worldwide, with many thousands of known species. Because they appeared quickly in geological time, and moulted like other arthropods, **trilobites** serve as excellent index fossils, enabling geologists to date the age of the rocks in which they are found.

**Trilobites** (meaning "three lobes") are a fossil group of [extinct](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinction" \o "Extinction" \t "_blank) marine [arthropods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthropod" \o "Arthropod" \t "_blank). Trilobites form one of the earliest known groups of arthropods. The first appearance of trilobites in the fossil record was in the **[Early Cambrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Cambrian" \o "Early Cambrian" \t "_blank) period** ([521](http://tools.wmflabs.org/timescale/?Ma=521" \t "_blank) [million years ago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myr" \o "Myr" \t "_blank)). Trilobites finally disappeared in the [mass extinction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permian%E2%80%93Triassic_extinction_event" \o "Permian–Triassic extinction event" \t "_blank) at the end of the **[Permian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permian" \o "Permian" \t "_blank) about [250](http://tools.wmflabs.org/timescale/?Ma=250" \t "_blank) [million years ago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myr" \o "Myr" \t "_blank)**. The trilobites were among the most successful of all early animals, roaming the oceans for over 270 million years.

**Arthropod**

An arthropod is an invertebrate animal having an exoskeleton, a segmented body, and jointed appendages. Modern Arthropods include the insects, arachnids, myriapods, and crustaceans

**Humans**

While our ancestors have been around for about six million years, the modern form of humans only evolved about 200,000 years ago. Civilization as we know it is only about 6,000 years old, and industrialization started in the earnest only in the 1800s.

**Dinosaurs**

Dinosaurs lived on Earth for about 175 million years, until they were entirely wiped out by the K-T extinction event at the end of the Cretaceous Period.

**Tribolites Stage** 1 <http://www.onegeology.org/extra/kids/fossils/trilobites.html>

**10 Terrific Facts About Trilobites** <http://mentalfloss.com/article/68881/10-terrific-facts-about-trilobites>

**20 Facts about Trilobites and some great pictures** <https://research.amnh.org/paleontology/trilobite-website/twenty-trilobite-fast-facts>

**AMNH – Trilobites** <http://www.amnh.org/our-research/paleontology/paleontology-faq/trilobite-website>

AMNH Trilobite Video Trilobites appeared in ancient oceans well before life emerged on land. These marine arthropods existed for almost 300 million years, and over 20,000 species have been described so far.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iXalNPd64E>

Make an infographic about Tribolites