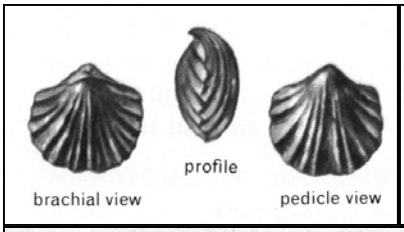
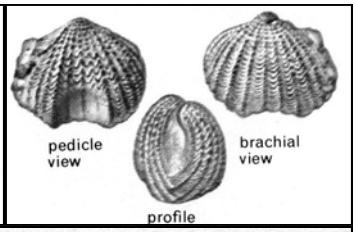
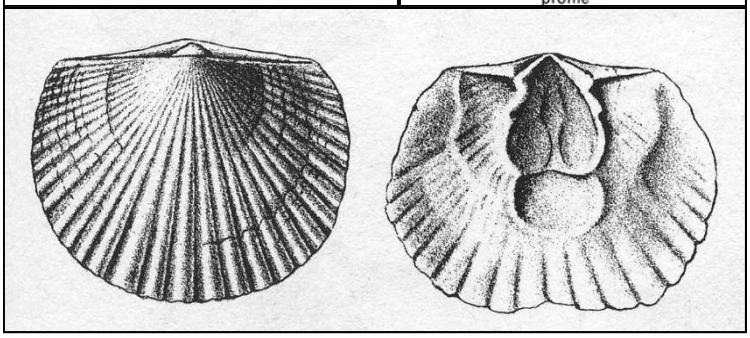
Fossils of Northeast Iowa

Brachiopods

- Name means "lampshells."
- Look like clams, even thought they're not!
- Most lived 250-500 million years ago!

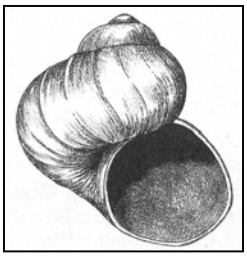


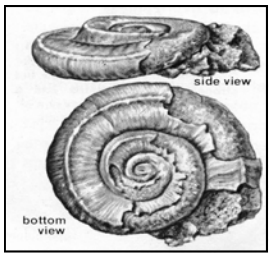


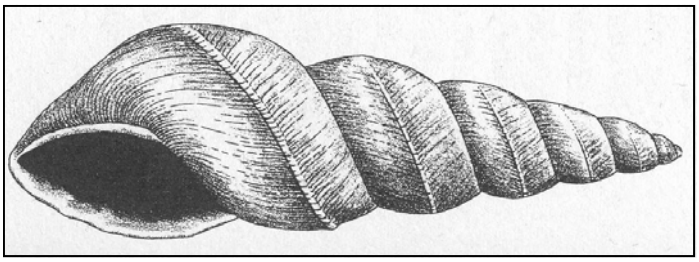


Gastropods

- Prehistoric snails that could only live at sea.
- Name means "stomach foot" since they have only one foot that can be pulled all the way into their shells.

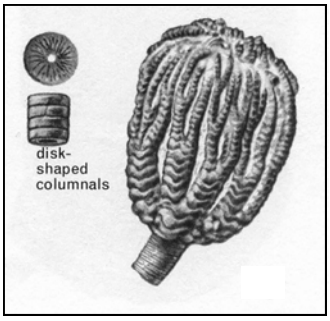




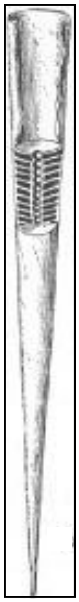


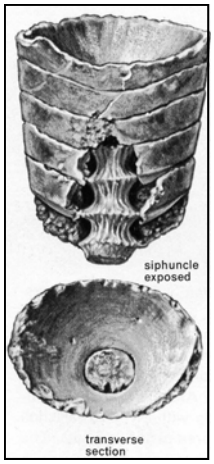
Crinoids

- Animals that live in groups on the bottom of the sea and look like flowers.
- Name means "lilylike."



Nautiloid Cephalopods

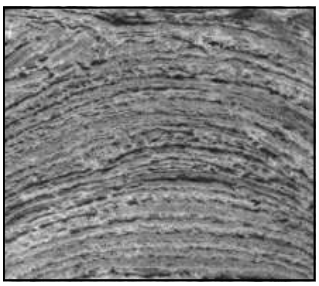




- Name means "headfoot" because its "arms" are part of its foot, which is also part of its head!
- Moved by crawling with tentacles, or by filling its shell cavity with water and squirting it out.
- Could grow to 15 feet!

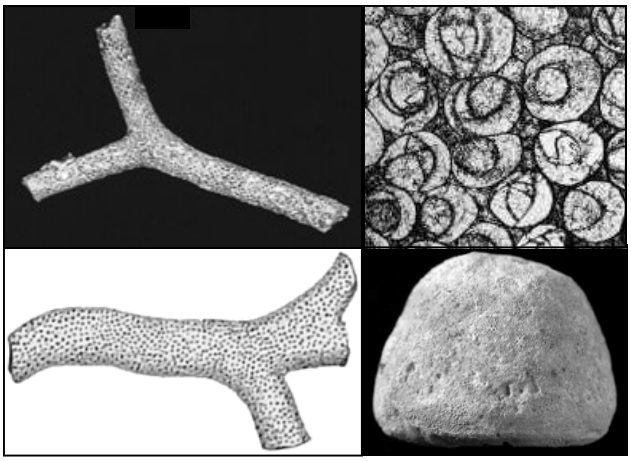
Stromatolites

- Mats of stony algae that formed in shallow water.
- Name means "layer stones."
- Some are still being formed today.



Bryozoans

- Hundreds of tiny animals grew together to make each fossil.
- Had no head or brains, just nerves.
- Name means "moss animals."

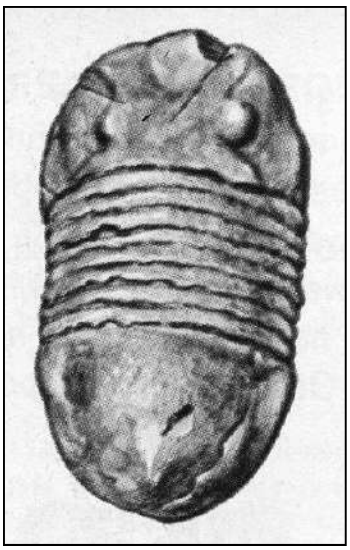


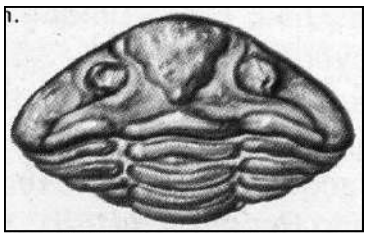
Branching Bryozoans

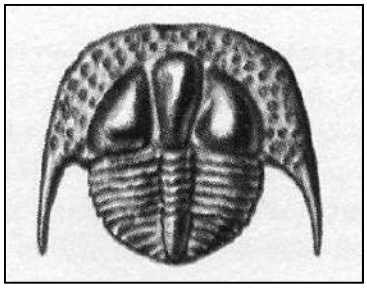
Gumdrop Bryozoans

Trilobites

- Lived on the bottom of the sea.
- Ate dead things or hunted for food.
- Are extinct now. The last ones died 250 million years ago.

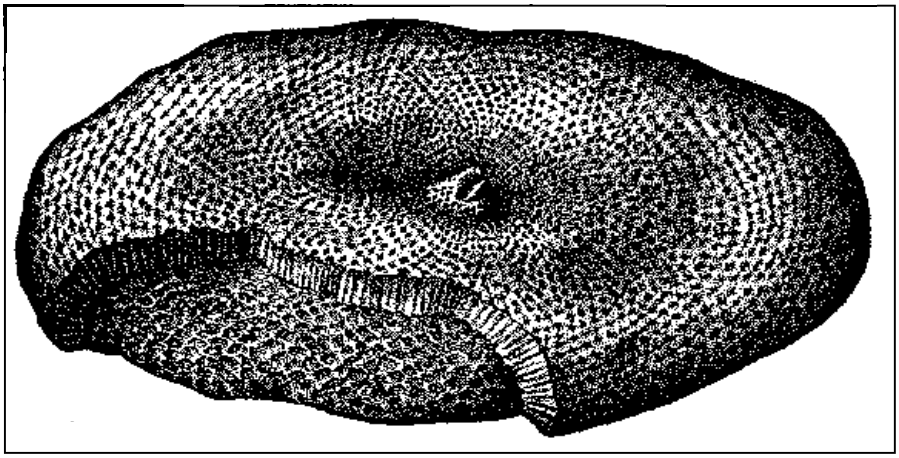


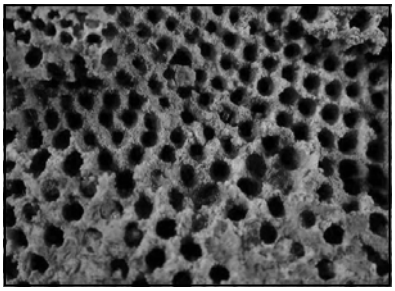


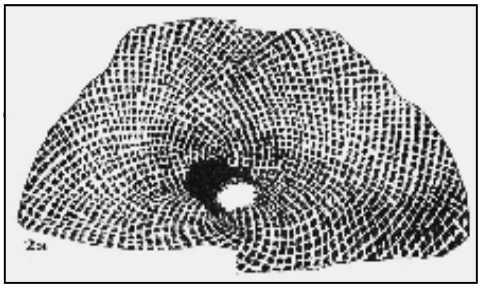


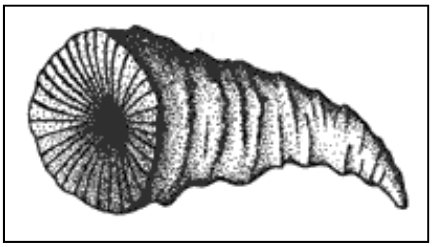
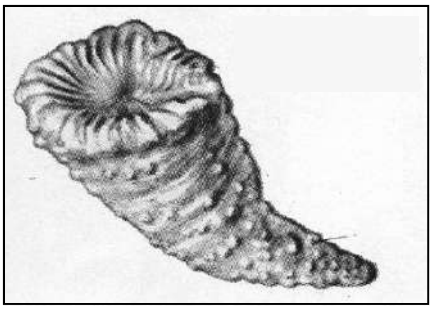
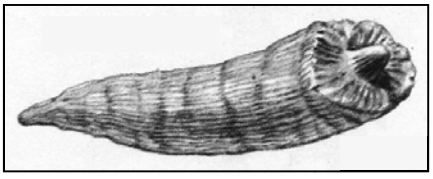
Receptaculites

- Called "sunflower" corals.
- Mats of algae that grew in the shape of plates in limestone.







Horn Corals

- Old homes of animals that lived at on the sea floor.
- Look like wrinkled horns.