

## The Mystery of the Far-Flung Fossils

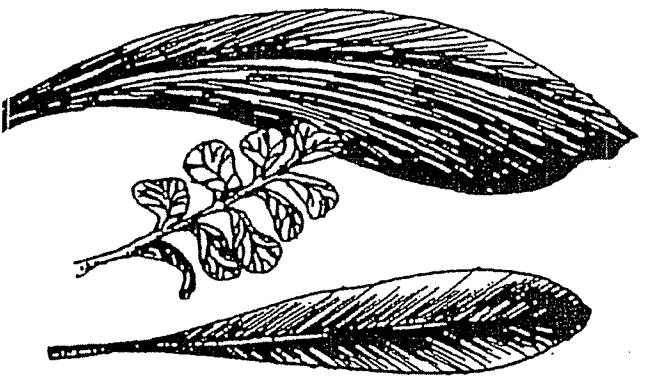
Let's go on a fossil collecting expedition! In South America you will collect fossils in Brazil. You will explore the coal fields in southern India. Some of your African rocks are in a gorge near Capetown. In Australia you'll look at rocks on the southern coast. Your fossils of Antarctica occur mostly beneath glacial ice in the mountains on the western shores. Since each continent is now separated from the others by oceans and seas, you must travel between them by plane and by boat. You will look for fossils in the sedimentary rocks of three (3) ages.

Imagine that the 5 continents are each represented by a stack of sedimentary rocks on the tables around the room. The continents are in their natural geographical shape and their sizes are proportional. The blue, top layer represents modern times and the pictures of the modern animals/plants you see are native to the continent. The three lower layers depict sedimentary rocks of three past ages.

Blue Rocks	Modern day plants and animals.	Present
Green Rocks	Late in the Age of Dinosaurs	100 million years ago (mya)
Yellow Rocks	Early in the Age of Reptiles	200 million years ago (mya)
Red Rocks	The Coal Age	300 million years ago (mya)

Fossils can be seen in the sedimentary rocks of each past age. These are some of the important organisms that lived on the continents at those times. To identify and learn more about each fossil, refer to the "Fossil Catalog" on the following pages.

Record on your data sheet the names of the fossils you find in the rocks on each continent for the past ages. Also record the names of the animals now living on the present day continents.



**Early G. flora**  
 A group of 27 species of plants found in coal. G (Glossopteris) is the genus name of one common seed fern.

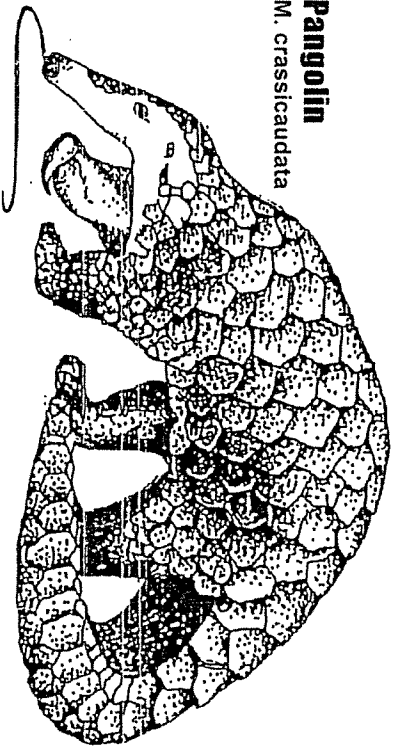


**Later G. flora**  
 Different but related species of early G. flora.

Modern Ant and Termite Eating Mammals. Notice their pointed snouts and claws!



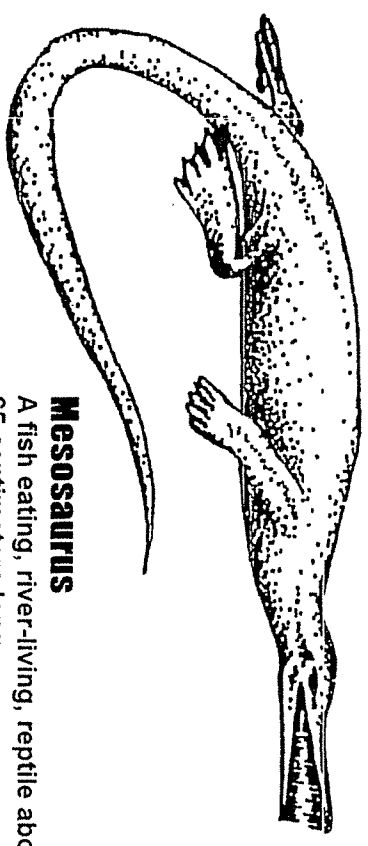
**Giant Anteater**  
*M. tridactyla*



**Pangolin**  
*M. crassicaudata*



**Lystrosaurus**  
 A plant eating, mammal-like reptile with beak-like jaws and a body about 1 meter long.



**Mesosaurus**  
 A fish eating, river-living, reptile about 65 centimeters long.