

MAGS EXPLORER



Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Youth Newsletter

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State Fossils

MIKE BALDWIN--Did you know that most of the states in the United States have official state fossils? Did you know that most states also have official state gems, minerals, and rocks? In this issue of The Explorer, I have listed all of the states and their official fossils, gems, minerals, rocks, and stones. Idajean Jordan will be telling you some interesting facts about them at the meeting tonight as well. Save this copy of The Explorer. You might need it some time.

Official list of state fossils

STATE	FOSSIL	DESCRIPTION
ALABAMA	<i>Basilosaurus cetoides</i>	Archaeocete whale; Eocene
ALASKA	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	Woolly Mammoth; Pleistocene
ARIZONA	<i>Araucarioxylon arizonicum</i>	Petrified Wood; Triassic. Remains found in Petrified Forest National Park
ARKANSAS	NONE	
CALIFORNIA	<i>Smilodon fatalis</i>	Saber Tooth Cat; Pleistocene. Remains found in Rancho LaBrea Tar pits, Los Angeles.
COLORADO	<i>Stegosaurus stenops</i>	Herbivorous Dinosaur; Jurassic. Remains found in Colorado's Morrison Formation.
CONNECTICUT	<i>Eubrontes giganteus</i>	Dinosaur Tracks; Triassic. Found at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill.
DELAWARE	<i>Belemnite americana</i>	Belemnite; Cretaceous. Cephalopod
FLORIDA	<i>Eupatagus antillarum</i>	Sea Urchin; Eocene. Also known as Agatized coral.
GEORGIA	<i>Carcharodon megalodon</i>	Shark; Tertiary. Remains found washed up on Georgia beaches
HAWAII	NONE	
IDAHO	<i>Equus simplicidens</i>	Horse; Pliocene. Also known as "Hagerman's Horse Fossil".
ILLINOIS	<i>Tullimonstrum gregarium</i>	Wormlike Animal; Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian). Also known as "Tully Monster".

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State Fossils

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STATE	FOSSIL	DESCRIPTION
INDIANA	NONE	
IOWA	NONE	
KANSAS	NONE	
KENTUCKY	Brachiopod	Genus/Species Unspecified; Ordovician (Paleozoic)
LOUISIANA	<i>Palmoxylon sp.</i>	Petrified Palmwood; Oligocene
MAINE	<i>Pertica quadrifaria</i>	Early Vascular Land Plant; Devonian
MARYLAND	<i>Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae</i> and <i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Gastropod; Miocene; Astrodon, Suaropod dinosaur; Cretaceous
MASSACHUSETTS	Dinosaur Tracks	Genus/Specis unspecified; Triassic.
MICHIGAN	NONE	State Stone is the <i>Hexagonaria percarinata</i> . Coral; Devonian. Also known as Petoskey Stone.
MINNESOTA	NONE	<i>Casturoides ohioensis</i> , a giant beaver, has been proposed
MISSISSIPPI	<i>Zygorhiza kochii</i>	Archaeocete whale; Eocene
MISSOURI	<i>Delocrinus missouriensis</i>	Crinoid; Carboniferous
MONTANA	<i>Maiasuara peeblesorum</i>	Herbivorous duckbilled dinosaur; Cretaceous
NEBRASKA	<i>Mammuthus imperator mailbeni</i>	Mammoth; Pleistocene
NEVADA	<i>Shonisaurus popularis</i>	Ichthyosaur; Triassic
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NONE	
NEW JERSEY	<i>Hadrosaurus foulki</i>	Herbivorous duckbilled dinosaur; Cretaceous. First Dinosaur skeleton found in the United States.
NEW MEXICO	<i>Coelophysis bauri</i>	Predatory dinosaur; Triassic. Remains found at Ghost Ranch, NM
NEW YORK	<i>Eurypterus remipes</i>	Eurypterid; Silurian. Giant sea scorpion
NORTH CAROLINA	NONE	
NORTH DAKOTA	Teredo Petrified Wood	Petrified Wood; Paleocene
OHIO	<i>Isotelus sp.</i>	Trilobite; Ordovician
OKLAHOMA	NONE	
OREGON	NONE	
PENNSYLVANIA	<i>Phacops rana</i>	Trilobite; Devonian
RHODE ISLAND	NONE	
SOUTH CAROLINA	NONE	
SOUTH DAKOTA	<i>Triceratops prorosus</i>	Herbivorous dinorsaur; Cretaceous
TENNESSEE	<i>Pterotrigonia thoracica</i>	Gastropod; Cretaceous. Found at Coon Creek.
TEXAS	<i>Pleurocoelus sp.</i>	Sauropod dinosaur; Cretaceous
UTAH	<i>Allosaurus fragilis</i>	Predatory dinosaur; Jurassic. Remains common in Utah.
VERMONT	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Beluga Whale; Pleistocene
VIRGINIA	<i>Chesapecten jeffersonius</i>	Pelecypod; Pliocene. Named for Thomas Jefferson. Many specimens were uncovered due to Hurricane Floyd.
WASHINGTON	<i>Mammuthus columbi</i>	Columbian Mammoth; Pleistocene
WEST VIRGINIA	NONE	State gem listed as <i>Lithostrotonella sp.</i> Rugose coral; Mississippian
WISCONSIN	<i>Calymene celebra</i>	Trilobite; Silurian
WYOMING	<i>Knightia sp.</i> and <i>Triceratops</i>	Fish (Fresh Water Herring); Eocene. Found in the Green River outcrops. Triceratops, Herbivorous dinosaur; Cretaceous

State Gems, Minerals and Rocks

STATE	GEM	MINERAL	ROCK/STONE
ALABAMA	Star Blue Quartz	Hematite	Marble
ALASKA	Jade	Gold	–
ARIZONA	Turquoise	Fire Agate	Petrified Wood
ARKANSAS	Diamond	Quartz Crystal	Bauxite
CALIFORNIA	Benitoite	Native Gold	Serpentine
COLORADO	Aquamarine	–	–
CONNECTICUT	Garnet	–	–
DELAWARE	–	–	Sillimanite
FLORIDA	Moonstone	–	Agatized Coral
GEORGIA	Quartz	Staurolite	–
HAWAII	Black Coral	–	–
IDAHO	Star Garnet	–	–
ILLINOIS	–	Fluorite	–
INDIANA	–	–	Limestone
IOWA	–	–	Geode
KANSAS	–	–	–
KENTUCKY	Fortification Agate w/red, black and yellow banding	–	–
LOUISIANA	Agate	–	Petrified Palm
MAINE	Tourmaline	–	–
MARYLAND	–	–	–
MASSACHUSETTS	Rhodonite	Babingtonite	Roxbury Pudding Stone
MICHIGAN	Chlorastrolite	–	Petoskey Stone
MINNESOTA	Lake Superior Agate	–	–
MISSISSIPPI	–	–	Petrified Wood
MISSOURI	–	Gelena	Mozarkite
MONTANA	Yogo Sapphire and Agate	–	–
NEBRASKA	Blue Agate	–	Prairie Agate
NEVADA	Peridot Nevada Turquoise Black Fire Opal	Silver	Sandstone
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Smoky Quartz	Beryl	Conway Granite
NEW JERSEY	–	–	–
NEW MEXICO	Turquoise	–	–
NEW YORK	Garnet, Black Button Tourmaline, Moonstone	Hematite	–

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State Gems, Minerals and Rocks ... continued


STATE	GEM	MINERAL	ROCK/STONE
NORTH CAROLINA	Emerald	–	Granite/Unakite
NORTH DAKOTA	–	–	Teredo Wood
OHIO	Ohio Flint	–	–
OKLAHOMA	–	–	Barite Rose
OREGON	Sunstone	–	Thunderegg
PENNSYLVANIA	–	–	Trilobite
RHODE ISLAND	–	Bowenite	Cumberlandite
SOUTH CAROLINA	Amethyst	–	Blue Granite
SOUTH DAKOTA	Fairburn Agate	Rose Quartz	–
TENNESSEE	Tennessee Pearl	–	Agate, Tennessee Limestone
TEXAS	Topaz	–	Petrified Palmwood
UTAH	Topaz	–	–
VERMONT	–	Talc and Grossular Garnet	Granite, Marble, Slate
VIRGINIA	–	–	Chespecten jeffersonius (fossil)
WASHINGTON	Petrified Wood	–	–
WEST VIRGINIA	Lithostrotionella	–	–
WISCONSIN	Ruby	Galena	Red Granite
WYOMING	Jade	–	–

Notes from the meeting

1. What is the name of the September Specimen-of-the-Month? _____
2. Cut out the specimen card below, fold it in the middle, and put it with your mineral specimen.
3. What is the state fossil for Tennessee? _____

4. MAGS Field Trip will be September 20 to Richardson's Landing to collect agates, fossils and more. Sign up tonight!
5. This is your newsletter. Put your name on it, and take it home with you.

Your Name _____

Composition: SiO ₂ Hardness: 7 Crystal: Microcrystalline Luster: Glassy Streak: White Transparency: translucent Color: Highly variable Location: Hatch, New Mexico	Chalcedony Specimen of the Month September 2003	
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