

Chapter 23 vocabulary

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Cambrian explosion	sudden appearance of a diverse collection of organisms in the Cambrian fossil record
2. paleogeography	the ancient geographic setting of an area
3. passive margin	edge of a continent along which there is no tectonic activity
4. regression	occurs when sea level falls, causing the shoreline to move seaward, and results in shallower-water deposits overlying deeper-water deposits
5. transgression	occurs when sea level rises and causes the shoreline to move inland, resulting in deeper-water deposits overlying shallower-water deposits
6. amniotic egg	egg with a shell, providing a complete environment for a developing embryo
7. iridium	metal that is rare in rocks at Earth's surface but is relatively common in asteroids
8. phytoplankton	microscopic organisms that are the basis of marine food chains; abundant during the Cretaceous and the remains of their shell-like hard parts are found in chalk deposits worldwide
9. bipedal	walking upright on two legs
10. Homo sapiens	species to which modern humans belong