

# Ammonite

During the late Cretaceous period (83-79 million years ago) central Texas was covered by a vast, shallow sea. Over the millions of years, marine clams, oysters, and other small shelled animals died, sank to the bottom of the ocean, and turned into many layers of limestone and caliche. One fossil you will find at Blunn Creek is an ammonite.

Ammonites are invertebrates that can no longer be found in oceans today, they are extinct. They looked very similar to the living (extant), chambered, *Nautilus*, but are more closely related to squid. They lived on continental shelves and deep ocean environments and were abundant until the end of the Cretaceous period (83-79 million years ago). At that point they became extinct.



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How an ammonite looked  
75 million years ago.



Fossil of an ammonite