

# Interactive: Fossil Identification Chart

## Fossils *at the* Fort Name

### What life was like in Tennessee during the Ice Age?

You may discover evidence of corals, crinoids, trilobites and bryozoans in this Mid-state region:

#### Corals: Phylum Cnidaria



- Corals are solidary (single polyps) or colonial (many polyps living together)
- Like modern corals, ancient corals formed large reefs in shallow tropical seas
- Corals obtain food through filter feeding

*Solitary Rugose Coral*  
Also known as horn coral  
for its distinct cone shape



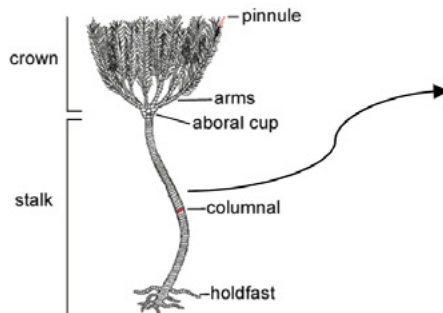
*Favosites conicus*  
Small colonial coral  
consisting of many polyps



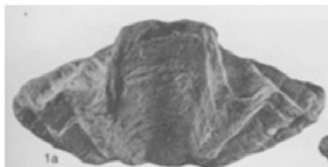
#### Crinoids: Phylum Echinodermata



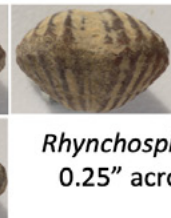
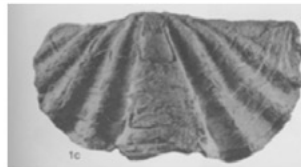
- Resembled an upside down sea star attached to a long stalk
- Species still exist today, related to sea urchins
- Acquired food through filter feeding
- Fragments of crinoid stalks are abundant in Middle Tennessee rocks



Fossilized columnals of various sizes



*Macropleura*  
> 1.5" across, very large



*Rhynchospirina*  
0.25" across



*Meristella*  
~ 1" across

Email us at [FortNegley@nashville.gov](mailto:FortNegley@nashville.gov)  
Contact us to join a geologist volunteer on the  
second Saturday each month from 9:30 to  
11:30 am. Reserve a 30-minute time slot.