



Scientists use **index fossils** to estimate the age of the surrounding rock layer.

Index fossils are the remains of organisms that occurred for only a **short period** of Earth's history, but are found in **many locations**.

This layer was formed around **350 million years ago**, during the Carboniferous period.

We can tell this from the presence of prolecanitid fossils. Prolecanitids were early ammonoids, a type of mollusc that lived in the sea.

Paradoxides lived on Earth in the Cambrian period, over **500 million years ago**. These organisms crawled along the seafloor in shallow waters near the coast of an ancient continent called Avalonia.

This is the **oldest** layer of rock.