All About Miocene Fossils

Use these pages to find out special information about each species.

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| **Fossil Name** | **Special Information** |
| ARK CLAM  *Dallarca* | Lived in temperate waters (in-between tropical and polar). |
| ASTARTE CLAM  *Astarte* | Size changed based on sediment type, such as fine sand to muddy flats. |
| BARNACLE  *Balanus concavus* | Free swimming at birth and then they attach themselves to rocks or shells when older. |
| CORAL  *Astrhelia palmata* | Found in tropical and subtropical environment. |
| GEODUCK  *Panopea* | Had large size and thick valves. It shell cannot close and form a seal. Because of its deep burrowing habits valves are usually found together and upright. |
| MOON SNAIL  *Lunatia heros /*  *Polinices duplicatus* | Carnivores that burrow in the sand and attack other mollusks. They would hold their prey with their foot and use acid to weaken its shell and then drill a hole into its prey. |
| MUREX SHELL  Ecphora | Brown in color. Predatory snail with spiral shape. |
| QUAHOG-VENUS CLAM  *Mercenaria* | Lives in shallow waters often above the low-tide line, commonly in mud flats. |
| Ray Dental Plates | Teeth were used to crack open crustaceans and shellfish. Lives in shallow waters. |
| SAND DOLLAR  *Abertalla aberti* | Thought to have positioned themselves vertically half in the sand and half in the water so they could filter out microscopic organisms for food.  Found in subtropical and tropical waters. |
| SCALLOP SHELL  *Chesapecten* | Color from blue-gray to sandy beige depending on the sediment that it was buried in. Some had a lightweight shell that let them escape predators by jet propelling across the ocean floor. Heavier shells were probably immobile. |
| **Fossil Name** | **Special Information** |
| SHARKS  *Selachimorpha* | Tiger, Requiem (Snaggletooth), Gray, and Lemon Sharks thrived on the warm shallow sea that once covered Southern Maryland. They ate rays, sea cows, whales, porpoises, fish, and invertebrates. |
| TREE OYSTER SHELL  *Isognomon maxillata* | Lived unattached in soft sediments, sand, and mud. easily recognizable for its pearly sheen and large size/ often found broken. |
| TURRITELLA  *Turritella* | Fed on plants material and other particles they could siphon from the water. |
| VENUS CLAM  *Macrocallista marylandica* | A more rounded smoother clam that thrives in sand, mud, soft sediments. |
| WHELK  Buccinofusus  Busycon (fulgur)  Busycotypus (channeled whelk) | Highly active scavengers, feeding on carrion, found in subtropical and tropical climates in reefs and under rocks. |

\*Information was obtained from the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Shell Database (2020) and Ward, L. W. (1992). Mulluscan Biostratigraphy of the Miocene, Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain of the North America. Martinsville, VA: Virginia Museum of Natural History.