

Discover...

# Jurassic Warwickshire

## Key Facts

550 million years ago it was thought that Britain was actually south of the equator. Over time it has gradually moved northwards to its present location. 550 million years ago Warwickshire was covered by a temperate sea full of trilobites and worm like animals. Around 300 million years ago Britain lay across the equator and central England was covered by a humid swamp. As Britain headed northwards it became very hot and dry, even desert like. During the Jurassic period, when dinosaurs roamed the earth Warwickshire was once again under water, marine reptiles, sea urchins and corals covered the area.

Fossils are the preserved remains of ancient animals and plants. They have to be at least 10,000 years old. There are two main types: body fossils, which are the remains of a plant/animals body and trace fossils, which show a plant/animal lived in a certain place, such as footprints and nests. Fossils can be permineralised where the original material is replaced with minerals. Insects or plants can be preserved in resin or amber.



## Where to find more:

- Find out more about the fossils found in Warwickshire by visiting the Our Warwickshire website: <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/subject/fossils>
- The Natural History Museum's Fossil Explorer app tells you about the types of fossils you can find in your area: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature/fossil-explorer-app.html>
- You can view 3D models of some of the fossils in the Lapworth Museum collections online: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum/collections/palaeontology/index.aspx>
- The British Geological Survey website has lots more information about the main fossil types found in Britain: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/Fossilfocus/home.html>

## Fossil Facts

### Echinoids

Echinoids are the ancestors of sea urchins that are still common in the seas today. They are part of a group that includes sea cucumbers and starfish.



### Gryphaea

Gryphaea are an extinct type of oyster, sometimes called 'devil's toenails'. The curved shells are very strong, which is why we find lots of them today.



### Ammonites

Ammonites are fossils of squid-like animals that had a distinct spiral shell. They were predators that fed on molluscs and small fish.



### Belemnites

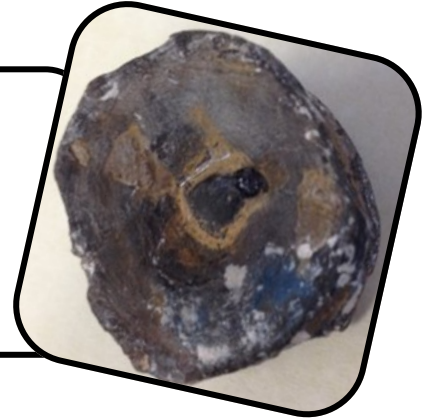
Belemnites were like a modern squid but with a hard inner skeleton. The ancient Greeks thought they were darts flung down from heaven during thunderstorms.



## Fossil Facts

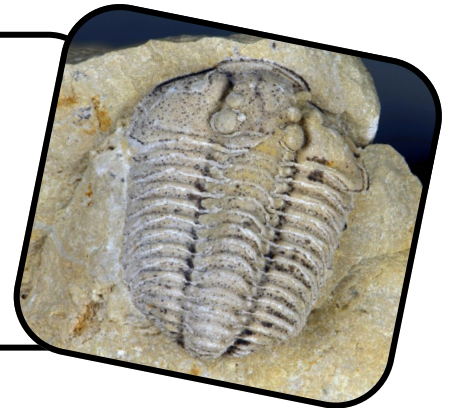
### Ichthyosaur

Ichthyosaurs were dolphin-like reptiles that lived in the sea. They are not classed as dinosaurs as they did not walk on land.



### Trilobite

Trilobites were some of the earliest animals of their kind, and the first to develop complex eyes. They are distantly related to lobsters and spiders today.



### Fossil Fern

Fossils of ferns are quite common in this area. Warwickshire was near the equator during the Carboniferous period and was covered with a tropical rainforest.



### Fossil Coral

Coral looks like a plant but is actually made up of tiny animals called zooids. The oldest coral fossils are around 500 million years old and are quite different to coral today.



How to make:

Jurassic Warwickshire

## A Fossil Door Hanger

You will need:

Template

Thick Card

Tissue Paper

Glue

Scissors

Colouring pens

Wool

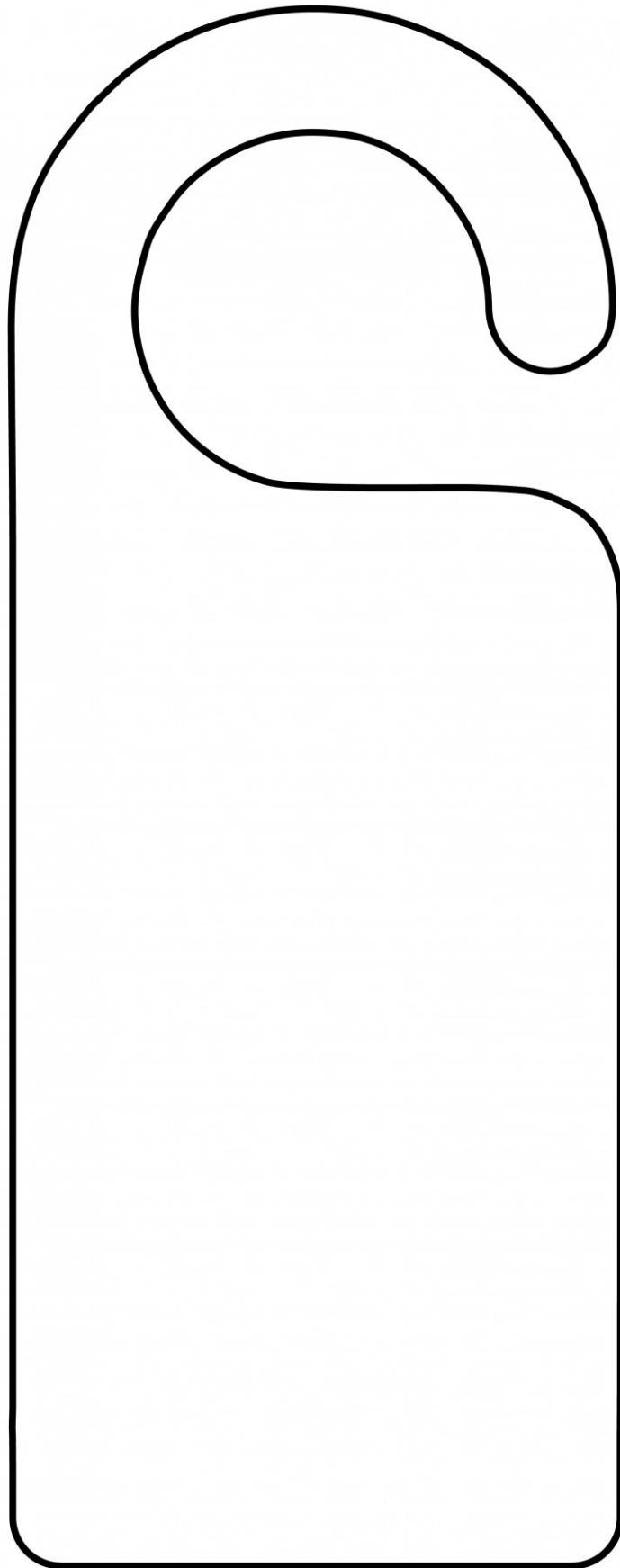
Many of the fossils in Market Hall Museum are of ancient sea creatures. This is because Warwickshire was under the ocean in the Jurassic period.

Spiral-shaped fossils are from creatures called Ammonites, which were a bit like a squid or an octopus that lived in a shell.



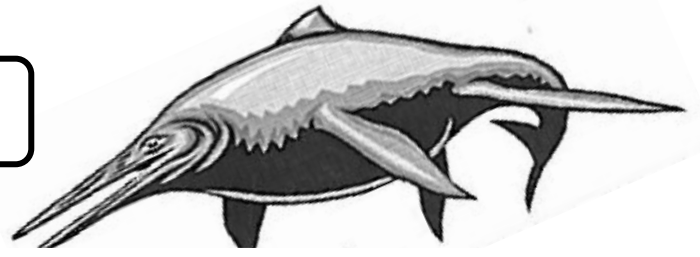
1. Use the template to cut a door hanger out of the card (cereal boxes work well)
2. To make an ammonite shape, roll some tissue paper into a sausage shape. You can also use newspaper or pages from magazines.
3. Wrap some wool around the tissue paper and roll it into a spiral.
4. Stick this onto your door hanger. You can also colour in the fossil shapes and stick them on.
5. Decorate your door hanger with colouring pens and other decorations you have—make it as colourful as you like
6. Don't forget to put your name on your door hanger so that everyone knows whose room it is!

Door Hanger Template



Jurassic Warwickshire

## Word Search



Many prehistoric creatures lived in Warwickshire during the Jurassic period. Can you find them in this word search?

**B A E Q L P Z Q I G Y J Q I S**  
**E A M K I Y L R G F M P B E F**  
**L J E J A V Z E D C T E A W L**  
**E I T T N P B J S L I U U Q R**  
**M U I D E P A D G I R P Y U T**  
**N N N O O S Q E W C O Y A M S**  
**I G O X T G D Y H L P S H J C**  
**T O M F S N G I L S O G A Y I**  
**E R M X L K N A O Y V Q B U I**  
**S L A X I Y C X H N G A I Y R**  
**U U X L V S R T A W I Y J X W**  
**O D C B E T H I B P E R B G H**  
**Q Q B I D C K Y P P Y K C B Z**  
**S P I R I F E R I N A R R A B**  
**A K E X Q C K J G Q V G H O I**

**AMMONITE**

**BELEMNITES**

**CRINOIDS**

**DAPEDIUM**

**DEVILS TOENAIL**

**ICTHYOSAUR**

**PLESIOSAUR**

**SCALLOP**

**SEA URCHIN**

**SPIRIFERINA**

Jurassic Warwickshire

Colouring in

