

http://visual.merriam-webster.com/images/animal-kingdom/amphibians/examples-amphibians_2.jpg

-There were 2 major mass extinctions during the Paleozoic

-Trilobites are shelly, crab-like creatures of the Paleozoic

The base of the Cambrian was long identified as being the rocks with the 1st occurrence of shell-bearing organisms like trilobites.

In the 1970's, a distinctive group of small shelly fossils was found below the 1st trilobites in Siberia and elsewhere. They seemed to be a sign of phosphorous-based life.

-During the Cambrian life decided to try everything. It was playing with all kinds of combinations of chemicals to find the best fit for life on our planet...

Definitions:

Pelagic- lives above sea floor

Plankton- floaters



http://images.livescience.com/images/050506_plankton_04.jpg

Lagerstätten- sedimentary deposits that exhibit extraordinary fossil richness or completeness.

-In the Cambrian Explosion foraminifera and radiolaria showed up, they are important indicators of paleocology (the study of fossils, to reconstruct ecosystems from the past)...

-In the Paleozoic reef building organisms (like algae, corals, sponges, etc.) appeared. These reefs were exclusively created by the microorganism stromatolite.

-Some other reef builders were...

Sponges: phylum porifera

Corals: phylum cnidaria

Bryozoan: phylum ectoprocta.