

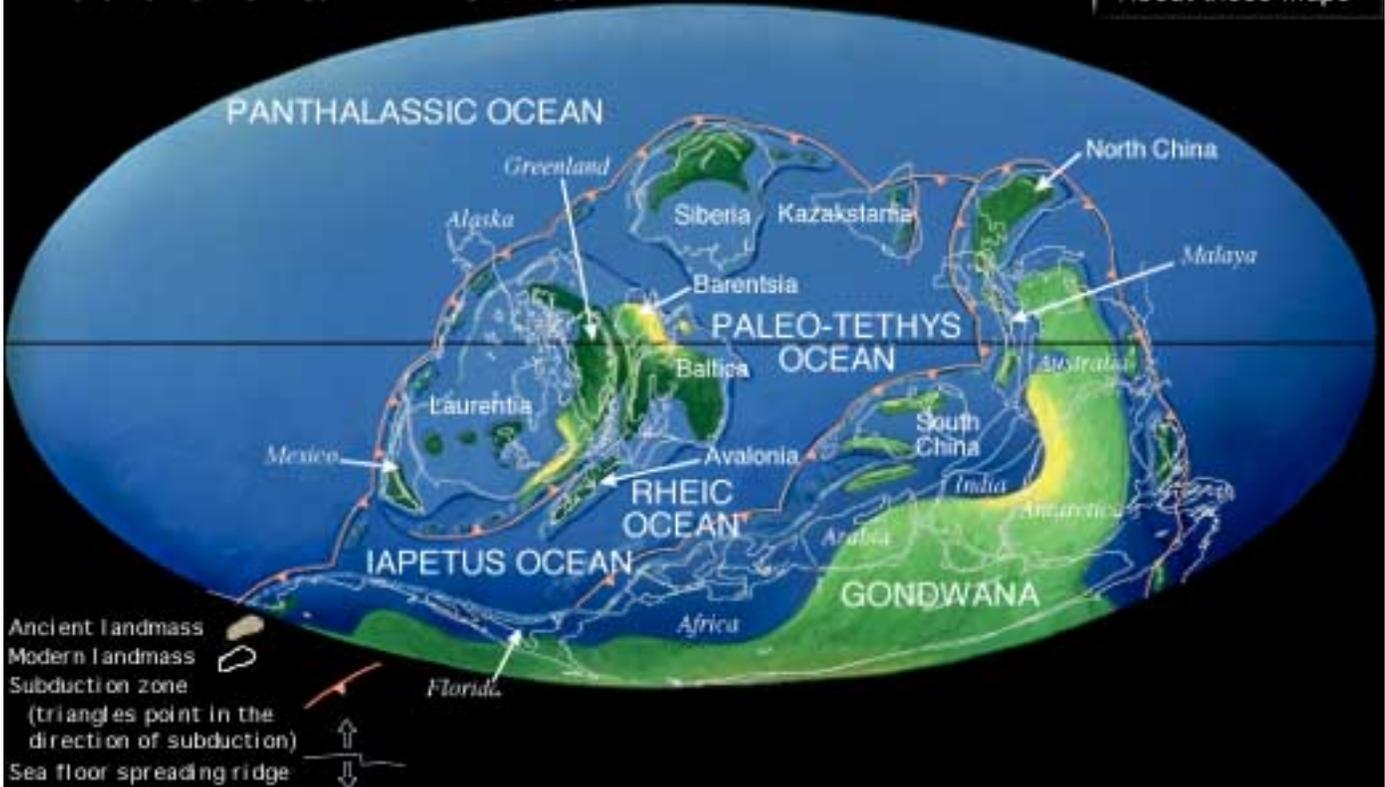


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## USGS Geology in the Parks

### Middle Silurian 425 Ma

© C. R. Scotese 1997  
About these maps





# Earth 425 million years ago

## [Silurian](#)

### What's going on here?

- Find Baltica (northern Europe) again. By 425 million years ago, Baltica collided with [North America's core](#), building a huge Himalaya-like mountain range. Notice that Baltica is close to the Equator. It shouldn't be any surprise that there are 425 million year old tropical fossils found in Scandinavia!
- But that's not all! Avalonia (England and USA's New England) has moved northward and is just beginning to collide with Laurentia along a southern [subduction zone](#). As you can see, much of the northern Appalachian region of North America owes its origins to [Early Paleozoic plate collisions](#).
- Now find Florida. That's it, far to the south and part of Africa! You'll have to wait for a few million years before the basement rocks of Florida start heading north.

## Reconstructing ancient Earth

These remarkable figures are produced by [C.R. Scotese](#) and the [PALEOMAP project](#). Geologists call these illustrations **paleogeographic reconstructions**, because they illustrate the reconstructed geography of our Earth at some time in the past.

Making a paleogeographic reconstruction begins by examining several lines of evidence including: [paleomagnetism](#), [magnetic anomalies](#), [paleobiogeography](#), [paleoclimatology](#), and **geologic history**. By combining all available evidence, geologists are able to construct paleogeographic maps, such as these, that interpret how the geography might have appeared at a specific location and time in the past. Paleogeographic maps are continually being refined as more evidence is collected.

To find out more about how paleogeographic reconstructions are made visit the [PALEOMAP project site](#).

- Learn more about **this time period** at the [PALEOMAP project site](#).
- Learn more about [geologic time](#).
- Learn more about [plate tectonics](#).

Move [forward](#) or [back](#) in time.

| [Today](#) | [0.018](#) | [14](#) | [50](#) | [69](#) | [94](#) | [152](#) | [195](#) | [237](#) | [255](#) | [306](#) | [356](#) | [390](#) | [425](#) |  
[458](#) | [514](#) | [650](#) |

Time in millions of years. Jump back to visit any time!

Scotese, C. R., 1997. Paleogeographic Atlas, PALEOMAP Progress Report 90-0497, Department of Geology, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, 37 pp.

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| [Into Earth](#) | | [Putting the pieces toge ther](#) | | [Action at the edges](#) |  
| [National Parks by Tectonic Regions](#) |  
| [Earth through time](#) | | [Detailed version: This Dynamic Earth](#) |

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