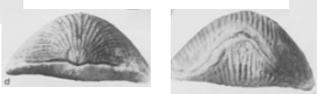
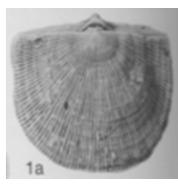
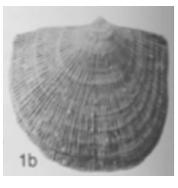
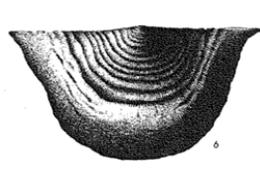
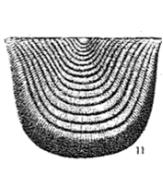
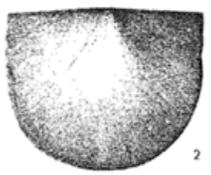
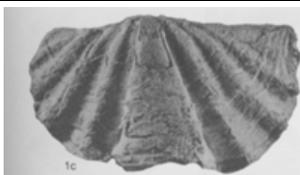
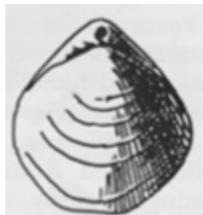
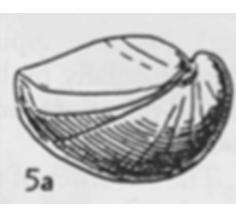


Fossils *at the* Fort

Tennessee limestone, including the limestone used to build Fort Negley, was created hundreds of millions of years ago from the remains of ancient sea creatures. Today, fossils of colonial corals can be found throughout the quarry site located north of the flag pole. A large quarry in Parsons, Tennessee, owned and operated by Vulcan Materials Company, is also home to some of the most amazing marine fossils in the United States. In order to reach the limestone needed for construction projects, Vulcan excavates layers of fossil-rich shale and limestone. While these layers are not suitable for constructing buildings and roads, they are perfect for fossil hunting. Vulcan's commitment to community outreach and education resulted in the donation of more than 23 tons of limestone and shale and the creation of a hands-on outdoor experience at Fort Negley Park. Explore *Fossils at the Fort* and discover Tennessee's ancient marine past!

Fossil Identification Chart

Use this chart to identify your discoveries of brachiopods

 <p>Brachiopods: Phylum Brachiopoda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brachiopods were animals with two shells that superficially resembled clams • Brachiopods efficiently filtered food using an internal ring of tentacles • Brachiopods could not move, often attached to sea floor • Brachiopods, although not common today, were dominant 450 million to 250 million years ago 	
 <p><i>Atrypa</i> ~ 1 - 1.5" across The most common brachiopod!</p> 	    <p><i>Schuchertella</i>, > .5" across</p>
 <p><i>Discomyorthis</i> 1" across</p>	   <p><i>Leptaena</i>, ~ 1 - 1.5" across, very flat</p>
   <p><i>Sphaerirhynchia</i> .5" across</p>	   <p><i>Rensselaerina</i> ~1" across</p>
  <p><i>Leptostrophia</i> > 2" across Large and very flat</p>	 <p><i>Kozlowskiellina</i> 1" across</p>
  <p><i>Macropleura</i> > 1.5" across, very large</p>	   <p><i>Rhynchospirina</i> 0.25" across</p>
  <p><i>Meristella</i> ~ 1" across</p>	<p>Didn't find your fossil on the sheet? Sketch it here.</p>

Fossil Identification Chart

Use this chart to identify your discoveries of corals, crinoids, trilobites and bryozoans



Corals: Phylum Cnidaria

- Corals are solitary (single polyps) or colonial (many polyps living together)
- Like modern corals, ancient corals formed large reefs in shallow tropical seas
- Corals obtain food through filter feeding



Solitary Rugose Coral
Also known as horn coral for its distinct cone shape

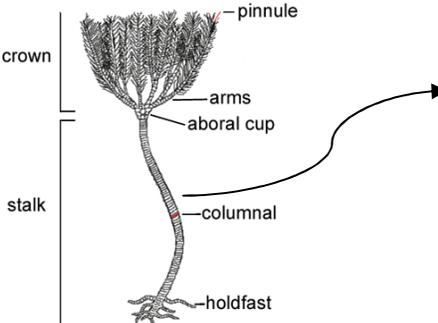
Favosites conicus
Small colonial coral consisting of many polyps





Crinoids: Phylum Echinodermata

- Resembled an upside down sea star attached to a long stalk
- Species still exist today, related to sea urchins
- Acquired food through filter feeding
- Fragments of crinoid stalks are abundant in Middle Tennessee rocks



Labels: crown, stalk, holdfast, columnal, aboral cup, arms, pinnule.





Fossilized columnals of various sizes



Trilobites: Phylum Arthropoda

- More than 20,000 species of trilobite fossils have been found
- Trilobites are extinct
- Trilobites lived in many different habitats from shallow tropical seas to icy polar waters
- Depending on the particular species, trilobites were predators, scavengers and filter feeders
- Spiders and lobsters are modern Arthropods



Whole trilobite discovered at Parsons Quarry



Rear portion of a trilobite, most likely a molt



Bryozoans: Phylum Bryozoa

- Bryozoans are the world's smallest complex animals
- Bryozoans form colonies
- Although bryozoans live today, they were very abundant 450 million to 250 million years ago
- Ancient bryozoan colonies are typically preserved as calcite fragments





Didn't find your fossil on the sheet? Sketch it here.