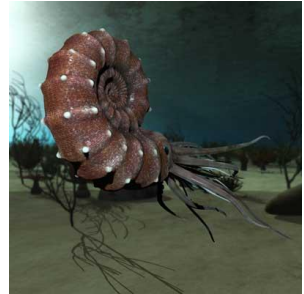




Ammonites



Ammonites belong to a group of predator called cephalopods. The creature roamed the seas between 65 and 240 million years ago eating fish, molluscs and other cephalopods. Their shells comprise of individual chambers, as the animal grew, new chambers were added behind the head chamber. The chambered interior of the shell contained gasses which enabled the ammonite to regulate its buoyancy within the water.



Due to this nifty mechanism, the ammonites survived 3 catastrophic events during their existence and are superseded by the Nautilus, still found on the Great Barrier Reef today - referred to as 'the living fossil'.



During medieval times ammonites were believed to be petrified snakes. They were fitted with carved heads and sold to pilgrims.

The original discus used by the ancient Greeks in their Olympics was a fossilized ammonite!