

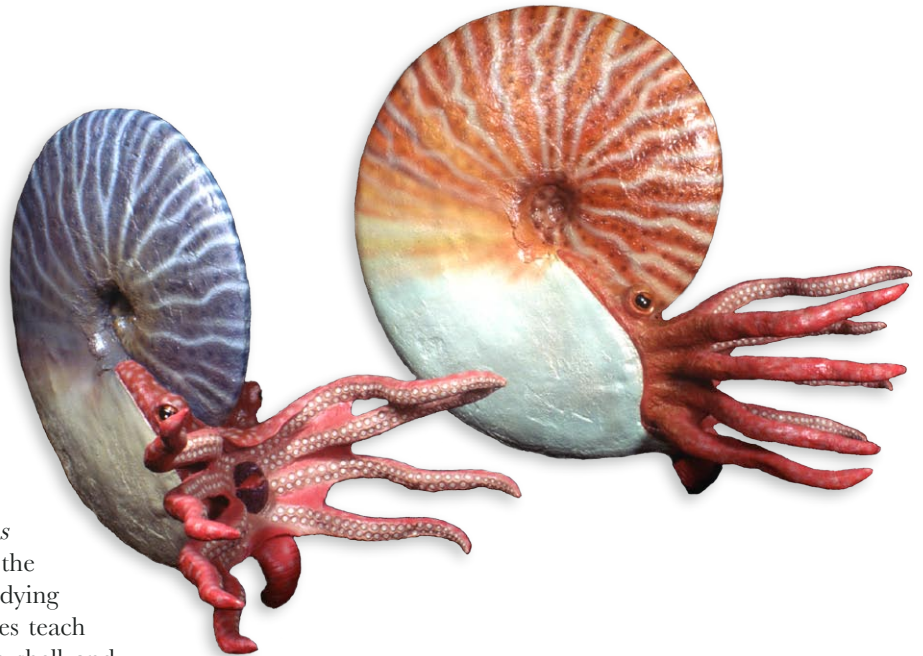
Ammonites

Fossil Replicas & Life Reconstructions

Order: Ammonoidea
Family: Placenticeratidae
Genus: *Placenticeras*
Species: *meeki*

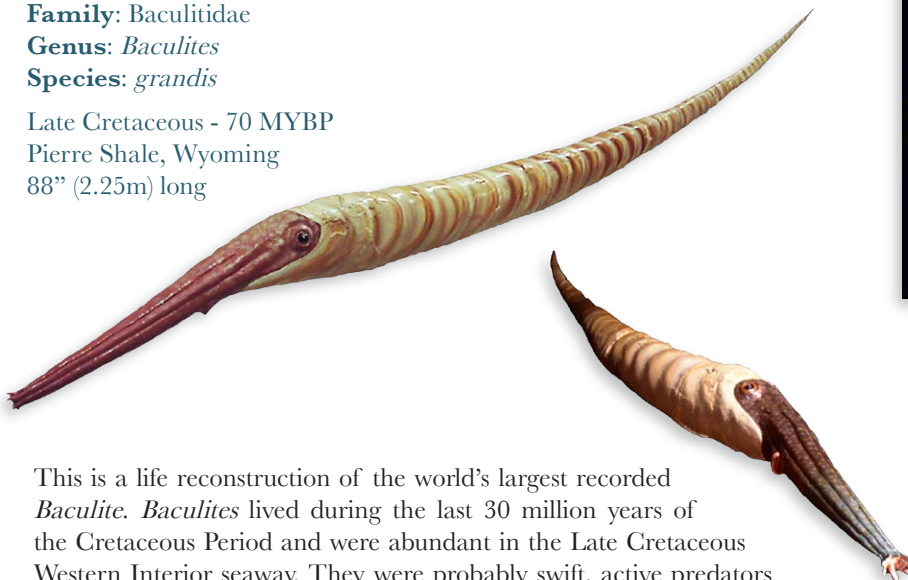
Late Cretaceous - 73 MYBP
 Pierre Shale, South Dakota
 28" (71cm) in diameter

The arms and heads of these ammonites were sculpted on casts of the fossil shells. Since ammonites share more similarities with squid and octopuses than with the chambered nautilus, these reconstructions more closely resemble these swift extant relatives, the squid and octopus. The colors of the coiled *Placenticeras*' head and arms match those of an attacking octopus. The jaws of the *Placenticeras* life reconstruction were molded and cast from the preserved jaws of a *Placenticeras* specimen. Studying the preserved beaks and radula of the ammonites teach us that they were capable of biting through the shell and bones of their prey. Ammonites were active predators within the water column, feeding on crustaceans, small fishes, and molluscs including other ammonites.

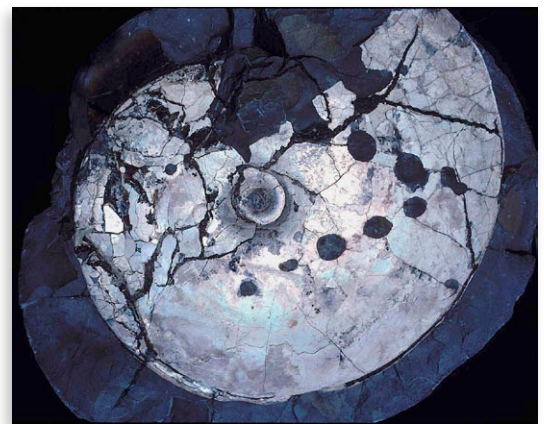


Order: Ammonoidea
Family: Baculitidae
Genus: *Baculites*
Species: *grandis*

Late Cretaceous - 70 MYBP
 Pierre Shale, Wyoming
 88" (2.25m) long



This is a life reconstruction of the world's largest recorded *Baculite*. *Baculites* lived during the last 30 million years of the Cretaceous Period and were abundant in the Late Cretaceous Western Interior seaway. They were probably swift, active predators as well as food for larger cephalopods and marine vertebrates. Adults ranged from 3 inches in length to more than 6 feet in size.



Mosasaur Bitten *Placenticeras meeki*
 Cast Replica of Best Mosasaur Bitten
 Ammonite Yet Discovered
 13.25" (33.5cm) in diameter
 Late Cretaceous, 73.5 MYBP
 Pierre Shale, South Dakota

Life reconstructions sculpted by Neal L. Larson
 Painted by Barry Brown