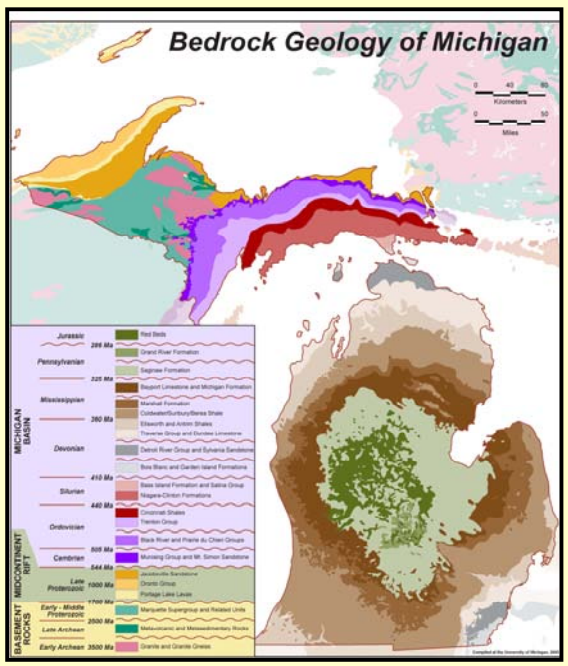


Michigan Geology

Did you know that Michigan is an ancient ocean basin and that we have fossilized coral beneath our feet?

In the past, the part of earth's crust that is now **Michigan** was submerged beneath tropical oceans (actually a number of times), forming a **basin** which accumulated many layers of sediment. The basin is known as the **Michigan Basin** by geologists and extends into Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The layers of sediment, along with the remains of plants and organisms living at the time, were compacted and cemented and are now beneath our feet in Michigan. Some of these layers can be seen "**outcropping**" at the surface and are shown on the map below. Others can only be seen if we take **core samples** from deep below the surface. By studying rock outcrops and core samples and correlating our observations across the state, we can reconstruct the geologic history of Michigan and find the many natural resources – water, minerals, oil and natural gas -- trapped in the layers of rock.



Ancient Corals Found in Michigan



Favosites (Silurian)
Favosites (Silurian)
Halysites (Silurian)
Halysites (Silurian)
Halysites (Silurian)
Siphonophorites (Devonian)

Living Corals in the Bahamas