

THE INLAND SEA

Great Artesian Basin, Queensland
(Cretaceous Period, 145-65 Million Years Ago)

About 100 Million years ago much of central Queensland and Parts of New South Wales and South Australia were covered by a shallow inland sea. This area is now called the Great Artesian basin.

The sea stars, sponges, prawns, crabs and shells of the warm sea were similar to those we know today. Other animals are less familiar because they have become extinct. Ammonites have coiled ribbed shells to protect their soft bodies.

Most fish also looked like their modern relatives. Belonostomus was an exception. It was one of the most common fish and it had a tough armour of thickened scales. Some reptiles had returned to live in the sea. These marine reptiles could breathe air but spent all their lives in the water.

