

GLOSSARY

- Basalt** — an extrusive molten rock, dark in color and often exhibiting columnar jointing.
- Breccia** — rock consisting of angular broken fragments cemented together.
- Caldera** — a large crater produced by explosion or collapse at the summit of a volcano.
- Cambrian** — a period (the earliest) in the Paleozoic Era.
- Conglomerate** — rock composed of rounded fragments of heterogeneous size and composition cemented together.
- Cretaceous** — a period in the Mesozoic Era.
- Ecology** — the study of the relationships of organisms to one another and to their environment.
- Eocene** — an epoch in the Cenozoic Era.
- Formation** — a clear-cut unit of rock usually with uniform texture and composition.
- Genera** (singular, genus) — a unit of classification above the species but below the family.
- Geologic column** — the total vertical sequence of strata considered to have been laid down during geologic time. Creationists consider the geologic column largely to be the result of a worldwide flood.
- In situ** — in natural position; not transported or moved.
- Lahars** — mud slides full of volcanic debris.
- Miocene** — an epoch in the Cenozoic Era.
- Mississippian** — a period in the Paleozoic Era.
- Oligocene** — an epoch in the Cenozoic Era.
- Organic** — any matter consisting of, or produced by, living organisms.
- Palynology** — the study of fossil pollen.
- Petrification** — the process of becoming hard like rock.
- Precambrian** — all time or deposits before the Cambrian.
- Sedimentary** — composed of particles; consisting of sediments.
- Species** — a unit of classification below the genus. Animals and plants able to interbreed are usually considered in the same species.
- Stratigraphy** — the study of stratified rocks as they relate to Earth's crust.
- Taxonomy** — the study of the relationships and the classification of organisms.
- Thrustfault** — a fault that has resulted from one mass of rock being thrust onto another.