

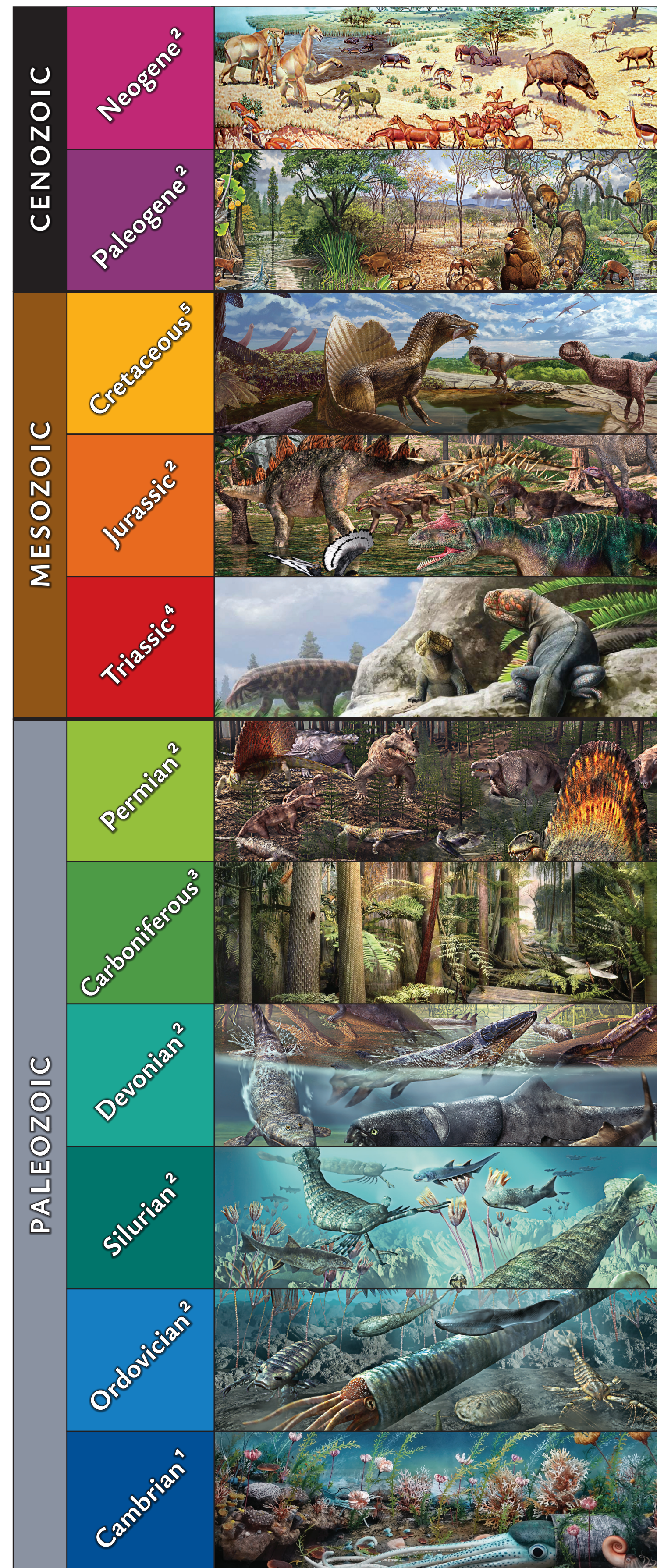
From Seafloor to Land

Ecological Trends

The fossil record shows an ecological trend: the lower layers have only marine fossils, while the succeeding layers show a trend of increasing terrestrial species. This pattern resembles the arrangement of living organisms along gradients of elevation. Harold W. Clark noted this similarity and proposed that the rising waters of a global flood produced the fossil sequence.

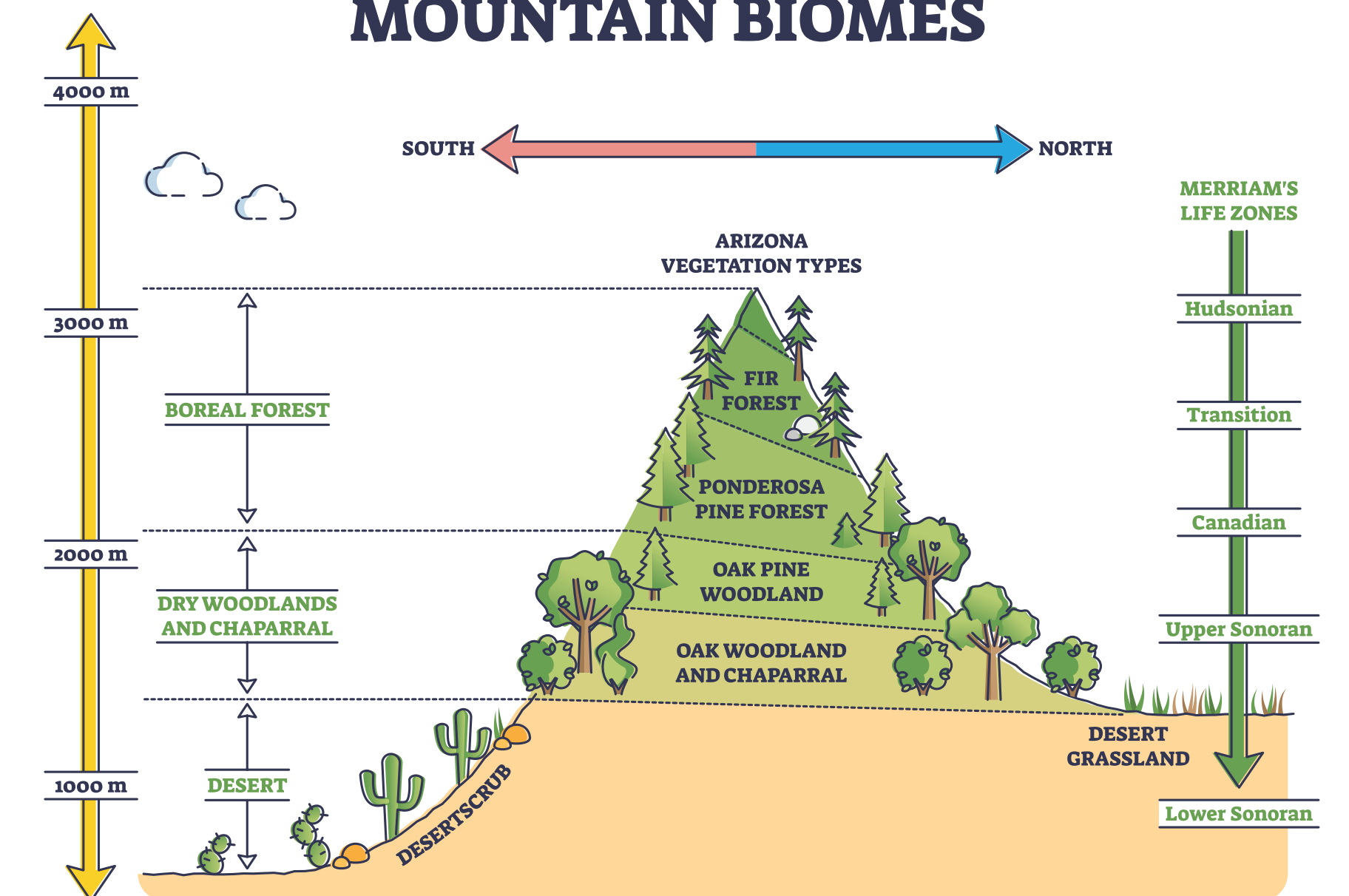
Clark's theory, ecological zonation, explains why most marine phyla appear abruptly in the "Cambrian Explosion." However, details of the fossil record indicate other factors must have been involved, such as geographic distribution, intelligence, mobility, buoyancy, and tectonic events. Further research on trends in the fossil record can improve our understanding of the complexities of the fossil record.

Ecological sequence in fossils



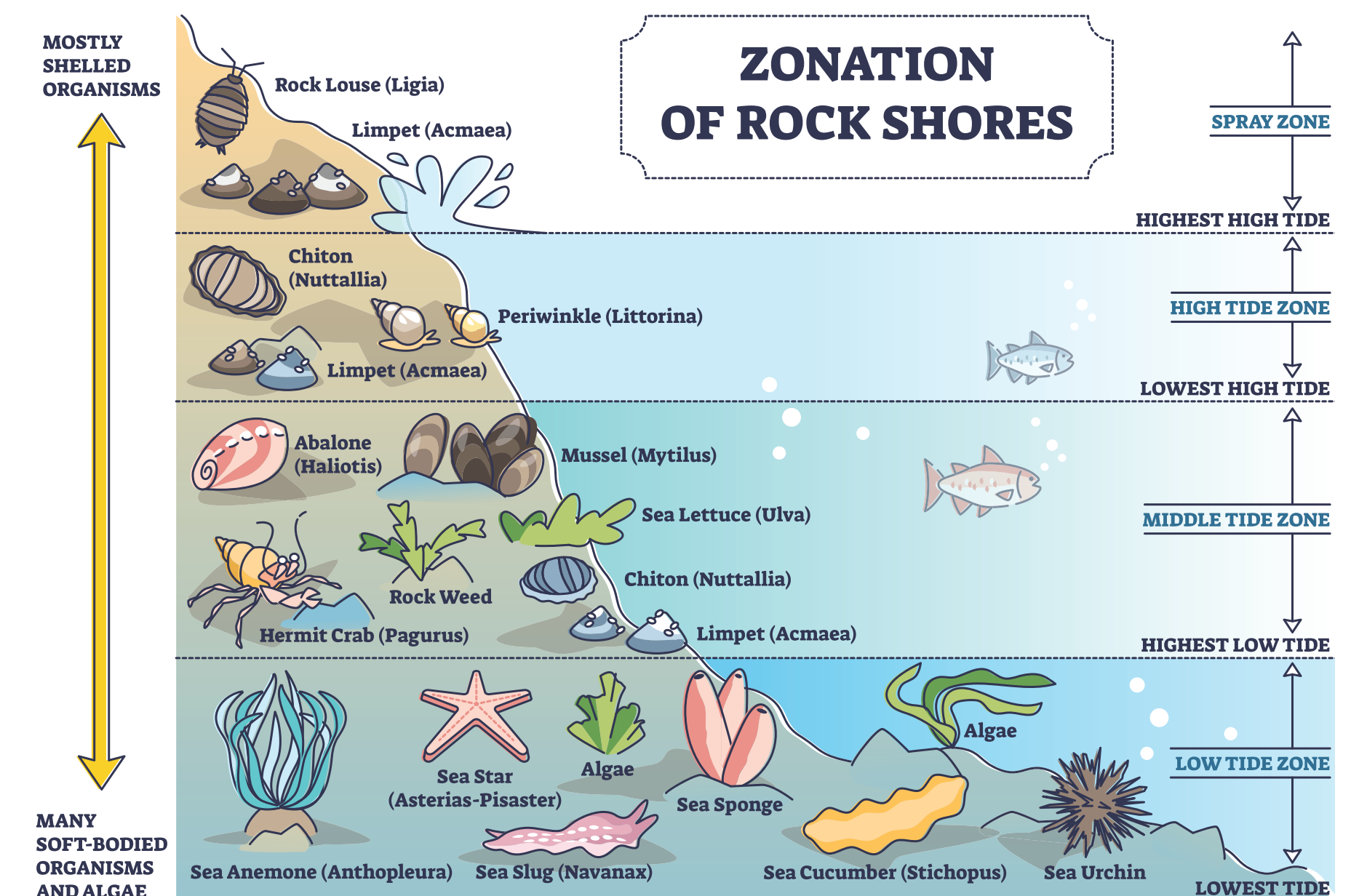
Ecological sequence in living organisms

MOUNTAIN BIOMES



Ecological zonation seen in terrestrial environments

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Ecological zonation seen in marine environments

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