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12.001 Introduction to Geology
Spring 2008

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Assignment for those missing the 12.001 March 1 field trip
Due Friday, March 7, 2008
Assigned Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Write a short paper (~3 pages) on the fossil you chose in class on Monday. Hand it in with your drawing of the fossil.

You will need to do some library research. The EAPS library is on the 2nd floor of the Green Building, and you may also want to look in the on-line search engine Web of Science (<http://www.isiknowledge.com/>) to find a scholarly paper or two. When reading scholarly papers, feel free to dig as long as you like into the methods and results sections, but you might just want to look at the introduction and abstract to get the more general information we are looking for here. Be sure to list references at the back of the paper, and to cite them in the text where their information is used! If you did not come up with the idea yourself or if it is not “common knowledge,” then it must be cited. The easiest method of citation is to place the author and year of the source in parentheses after the sentence that pertains, as in:

Students who do not cite references properly will be marked down (Elkins-Tanton, 2007).

Please include the following in your paper:

- Latin name
- Age
- Where it fits in the organization of living things: Kingdom, phylum, etc.
- Closest living relatives

And then write about any interesting things you can discover about the fossil, such as when they were first discovered and by whom, what earlier scientists thought about the organism, how long they lasted in the geologic record, or anything else that catches your fancy.