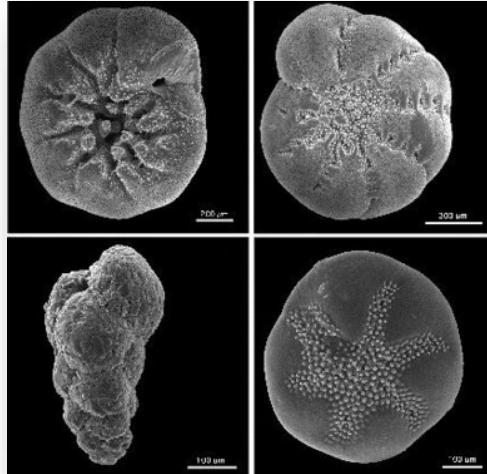




Documentary: [The Tiniest Fossils - Shelf Life #6 – Foraminifera](#)

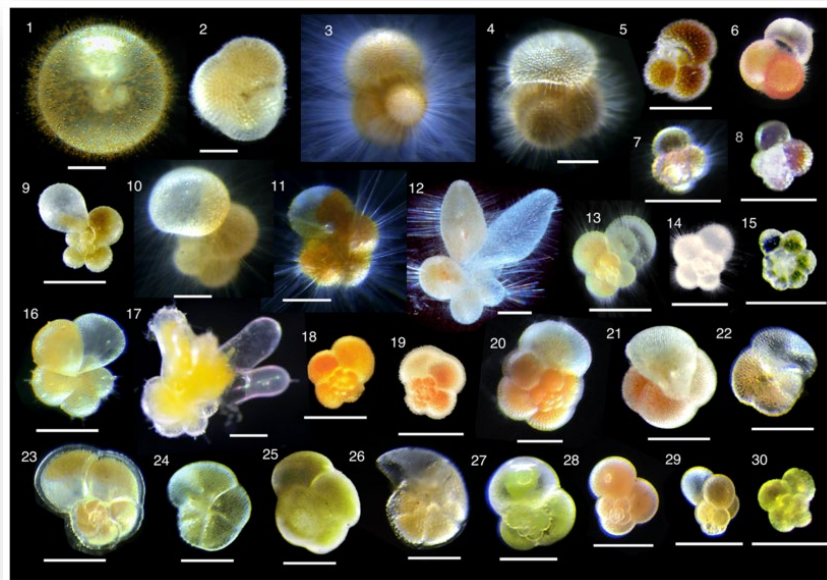
Duration: 6 minutes



Foraminifera fossils (Public Domain)

Overview of the Documentary

An introduction to the diversity of foraminifera (foram) fossils held in the American Museum of Natural History. The importance of forams in the study of past climates is discussed as are techniques to visualise the internal structure of their tests.



Photomicrographs of living planktonic foraminifera scale bars 200 µm (Creative Commons)

Resourced by





Questions

1. **Define** micropaleontology.

2. **Identify** where most species of foraminifera live.

3. **Identify** the average size of a foram.

4. **Describe** foraminifera.

5. **Identify** how long forams have been in the fossil record.

6. **Identify** what forams make that allows them to fossilise.

7. **Identify** how foram fossils are used for environmental studies.

8. **Identify** which isotopes can be used for chemical analysis of foram shells.

9. **Identify** the trace elements that might be present in foram shells.



10. **Describe** what chemical analysis of foram fossils can tell us about the past.

11. **Identify** how foraminifera are related to climate data, particularly graphs.

12. **Identify** what CT scans reveal about forams.

13. **Describe** the benefit of having a digitised collection of forams.

14. **Identify** how the foram collection could be helpful for the future.

Reference:

Photomicrographs of living planktonic foraminifera

Haruka Takagi, Katsunori Kimoto, Tetsuichi Fujiki, Hiroaki Saito, Christiane Schmidt, Michal Kucera and Kazuyoshi Moriya - <https://www.biogeosciences.net/16/3377/2019/> doi:10.5194/bg-16-3377-2019