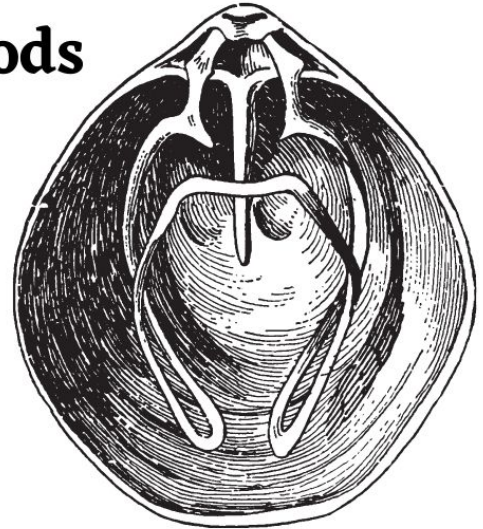


Characteristics of Index Fossils

After reading the prompt, answer the following questions

Living fossils: brachiopods

Over 550 million years old, brachiopods first appeared on the fossil record during the Cambrian Period. These marine animals are particularly populous shallow ocean environments, and their distributions are used to gauge environmental conditions such as oxygen saturation, water depth, and salinity. Modern descendants of brachiopods still populate the world today, many species of which remain virtually unchanged from their ancestral forms!



1. Why are brachiopods considered to be a type of index fossil? _____

2. What are the common characteristics of an index fossil? _____

3. What is a method of brachiopod fossilization? _____

4. List two other examples of index fossils. _____
