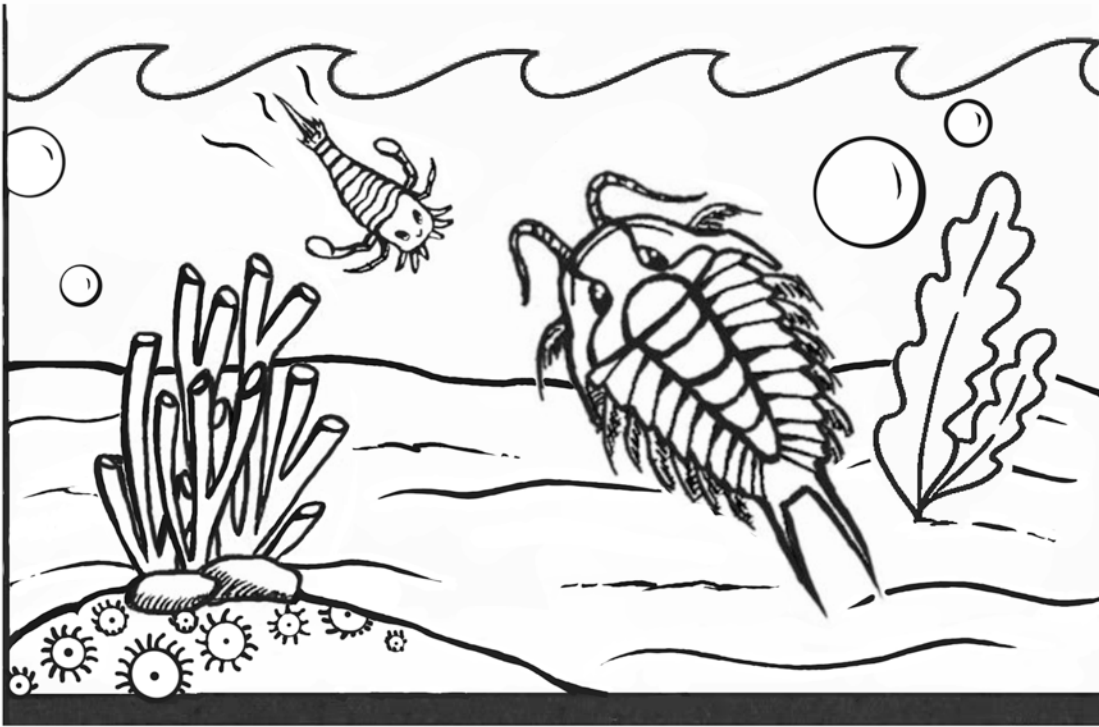
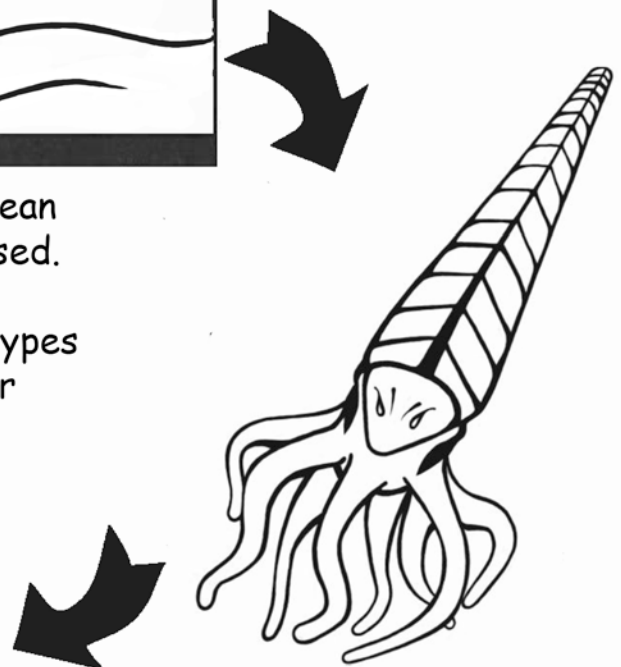
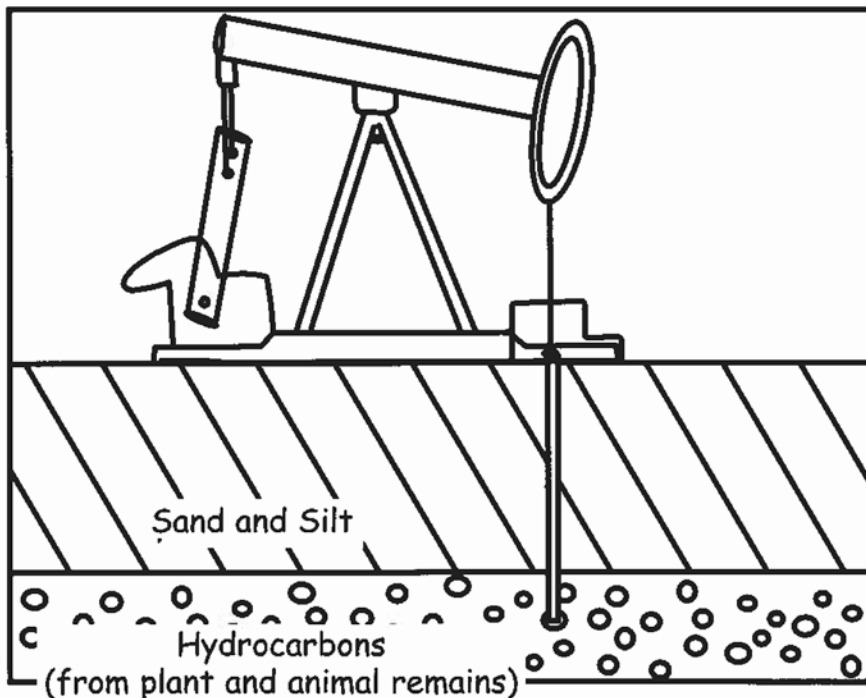


# Hydrocarbon Formation



Long before the dinosaurs, 300-400 million years ago, oceans covered most of the earth. The oceans were filled with tiny sea animals and plants.

As the plants and animals died, they sank to the ocean floor. Sand covered them and millions of years passed. The weight of the water and heat from the earth turned them into sandstone, limestone, and other types of sedimentary rock, and turned the organic matter into petroleum (oil) and natural gas.



Today, we drill through layers of sand, silt, and rock to reach the rock formations that contain oil and gas deposits (hydrocarbons) that were made millions of years ago. Since it took millions of years to form and can't be made in a short time, we call oil and natural gas non-renewable resources.