

2. Jurassic Period:

This began 186 million years ago and continued upto 135 million years ago. This name was coined by A. Von Humboldt in 1799. This was named after the Jura mountains of France and Switzerland.

Climatic conditions: The climate was warm, humid and faced plenty rain falls. Heavy deposition of shells and sandstones occurred in western part of United States. This resulted in covering of major part of the Rocky mountain region which is famous for dinosaur remains. The end of this period is marked with the occurrence of Nevadian disturbance. During this, folding

and uplift occurred along the Pacific border of North America. Volcanic activities of this period produced Sierra Nevada ranges extending from Mexico to Alaska.

Faunistic Peculiarities:-

i) Coral reefs forming corals became numerous.

ii) Modern oysters like pelecypods appeared.

iii) Arthropods were represented by lobsters, crabs, ostracodes and insects.

iv) Modern crinoids and abundant sea-urchins represented echinoderms.

v) Reptiles dominated land, sea and air. These were represented by following.

a) Huge quadrapedal plant eating Brontosaurus and Diplodocus.

b) Herbivore quadrapedal Stegosaurus.

c) Carnivore dinosaurs Allosaurus.

d) Ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs continued to expand.