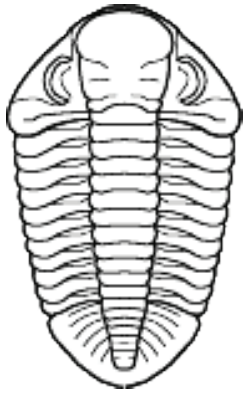


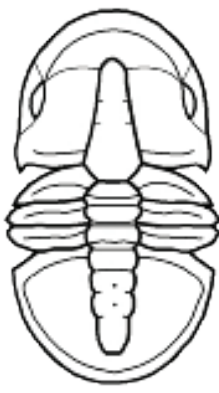
Trilobite

Pattern by Becky Barnes, sample trilobites used with permission by Dr. Sam Gon III, of www.trilobites.info/

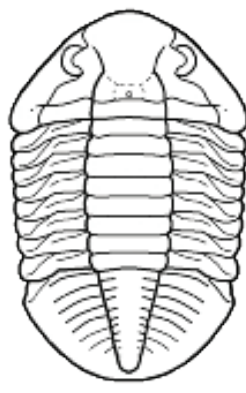
Trilobites are amazing little creatures that lived in the oceans loooong before the dinosaurs came around. You can think of them as a cross between a horseshoe crab and a pillbug. They were an early arthropod (hard-shelled, multiple body segments) that roamed the ocean floor, most likely eating leftover bits as part of Mother Nature's clean-up crew.



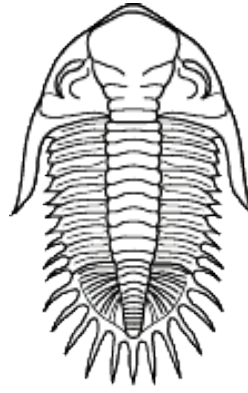
Acastoidea



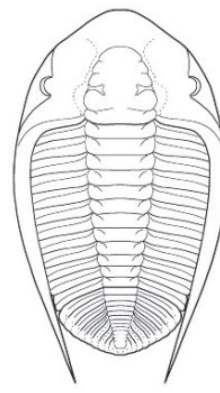
Agnostida



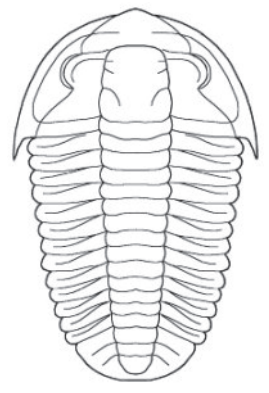
Asaphus



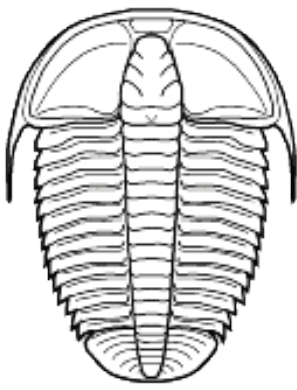
Asteropyge



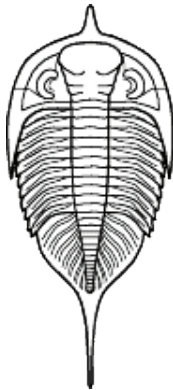
Bathycheilus



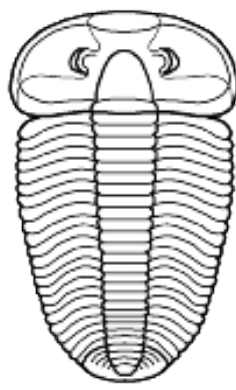
Bavarilla



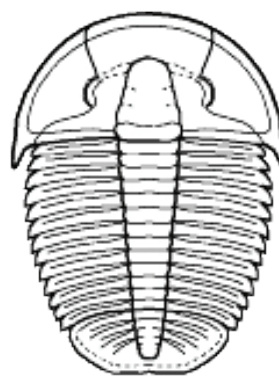
Conocoryphe



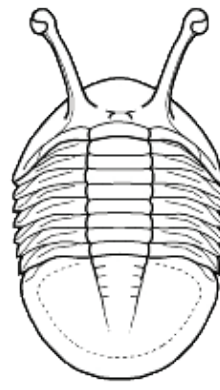
Dalmanites



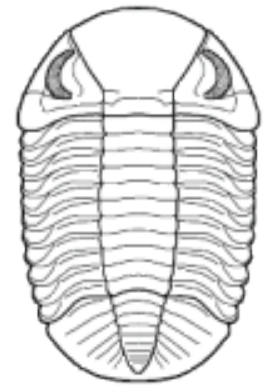
Densonella



Elrathia



Neoasaphus



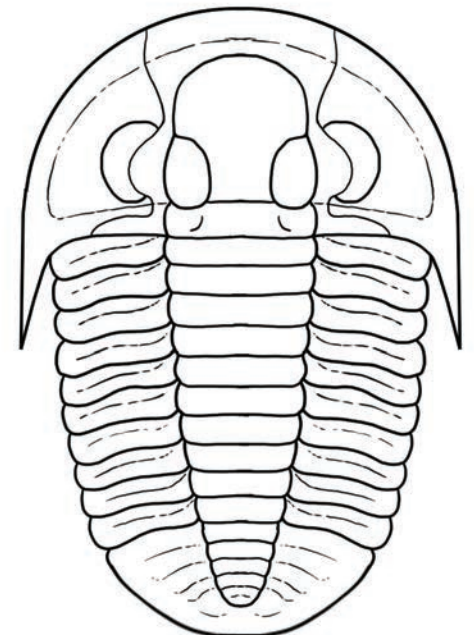
Phacops

Above is only a TINY fragment of the diversity that is seen in Trilobites! Dinosaurs may be a fan-favorite with fossil lovers, but trilobites aren't far behind.

You may notice that they share a similar body plan: they have a head (cephalon), body (thorax) and tail (pygidium). Nose-to-tail, they are also divided into three lobes: the axial lobe (middle), and two pleural lobes (side). This is where the name "trilobite" comes from - it means "three-lobed."

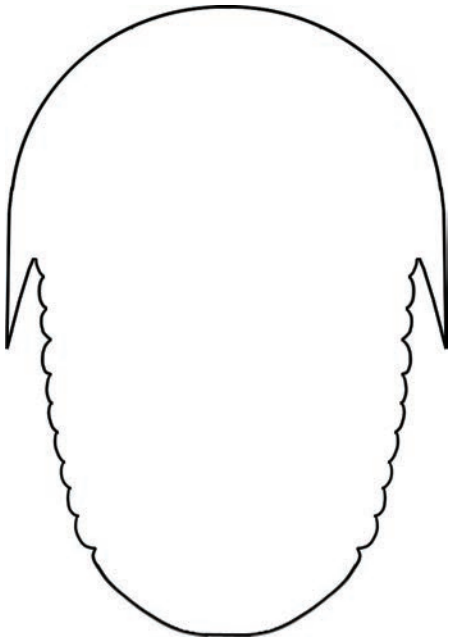
Aside from the basics, you can see spines, eye-stalks, large head or tail shields, multiple or few segments - really, the sky (or ocean) is the limit with these critters.

At right, I have taken a basic trilobite, *Cyphoproetus*, for this carving exercise. It has the basic features seen in the examples above, with nice large carving surfaces.



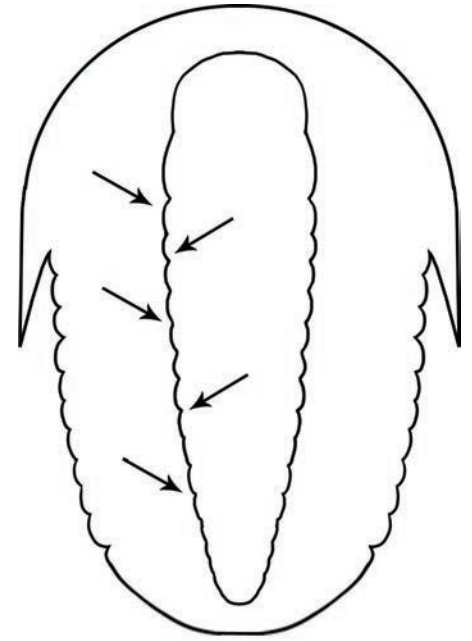
Trilobites were part of the "Cambrian Explosion" ~520 million years ago!

Grab a blank, or cut your own. Take inspiration from the trilobites shapes on the previous page, or come up with your own variation.

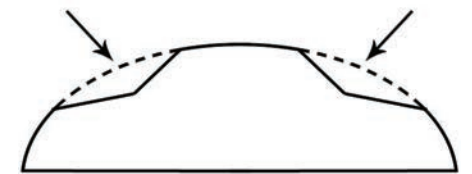


Start by carving out your axial (central) lobe. Your trilobite should have a stepped look to it, with the axial lobe being higher than the pleural lobes.

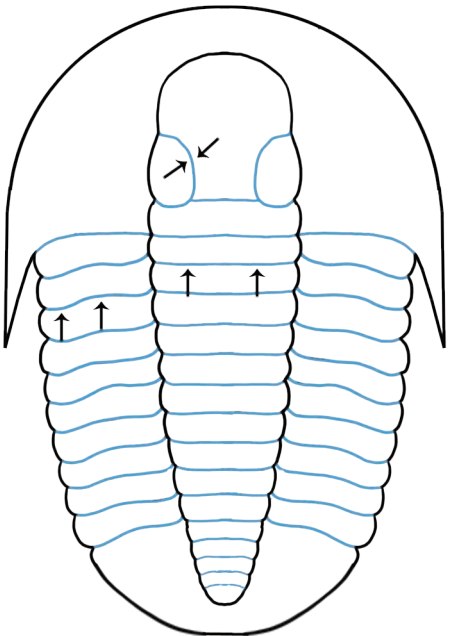
Your axial lobe should be rounded on the edges, and your pleural lobe should be rounded on the outside edge as well.



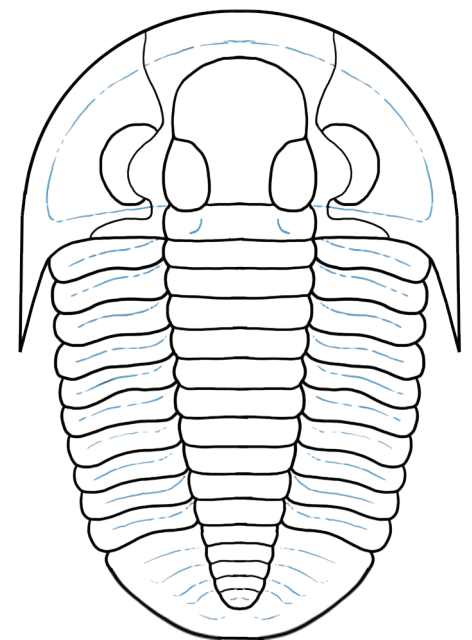
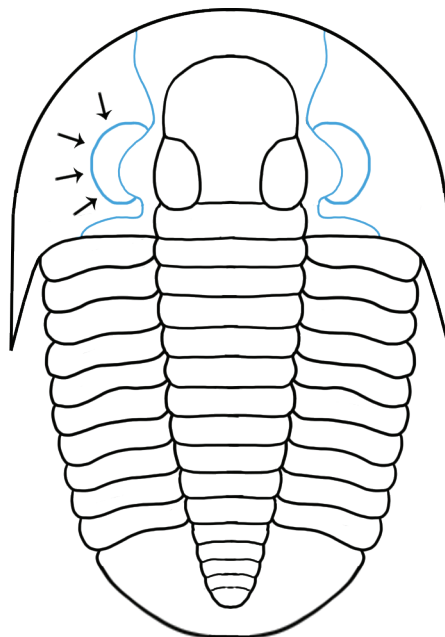
Next draw out your body segments, and isolate your head and tail. Maybe your trilobite has 5 segments. Maybe it has 20. Who knows? It's up to you (or your desired species).



Each segment is high on the tail end, and low on the head end, giving the animal a wave-like look at the side. Just remember to draw your segments all the way across - they had an equal amount on their sides and middle.



To keep the eyes bulbous, drop the cheek area of the faceplate down. Trilobites have compound eyes, so don't smooth them out! Leave all those glorious chisel marks on them - maybe even add some more.



Finally, bring out a small V-tool, and add some detail lines. Ta-da!