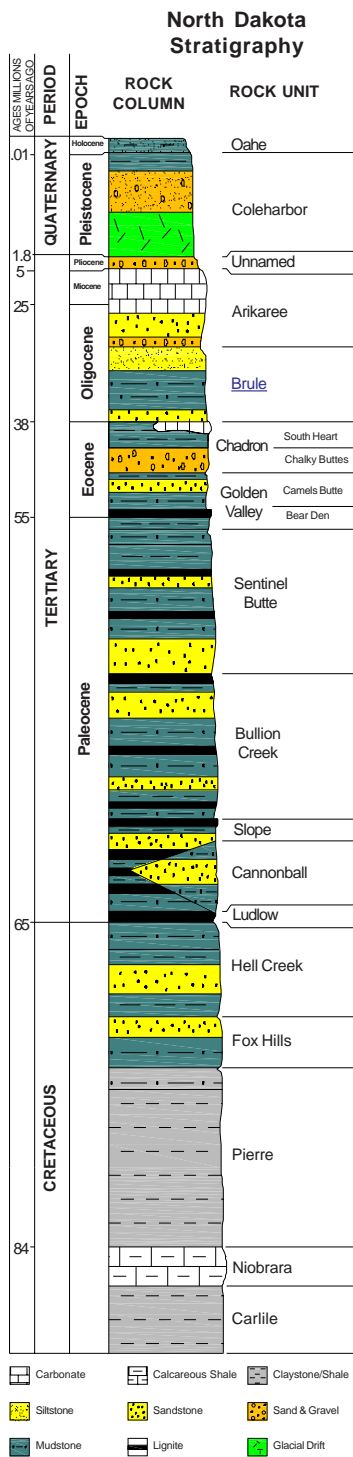


# Hyaenodon



**Common Name:**  
Hyena-like mammal

**Classification:**  
**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Creodonta  
**Family:** Hyaenodontidae

**Description:**  
*Hyaenodon* was one of the creodonts. Creodonts were the group of dominant flesh-eating mammals worldwide during the early Tertiary. Like the Order Carnivora, the posterior cheek teeth (called carnassials) of creodonts were modified to form specialized shearing surfaces for eating flesh. They also had huge heads compared to the size of their bodies. The creodonts became extinct in the Miocene. *Hyaenodon* lived in North Dakota about 30 million years ago. They were about 4 feet long. Their long legs suggest that they could run but probably not fast because of their spreading toes. Their strong canines, large premolars, and shearing carnassial teeth indicate that *Hyaenodon* was probably an active hunter and also a scavenger like the living hyena.



*Hyaenodon*. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found