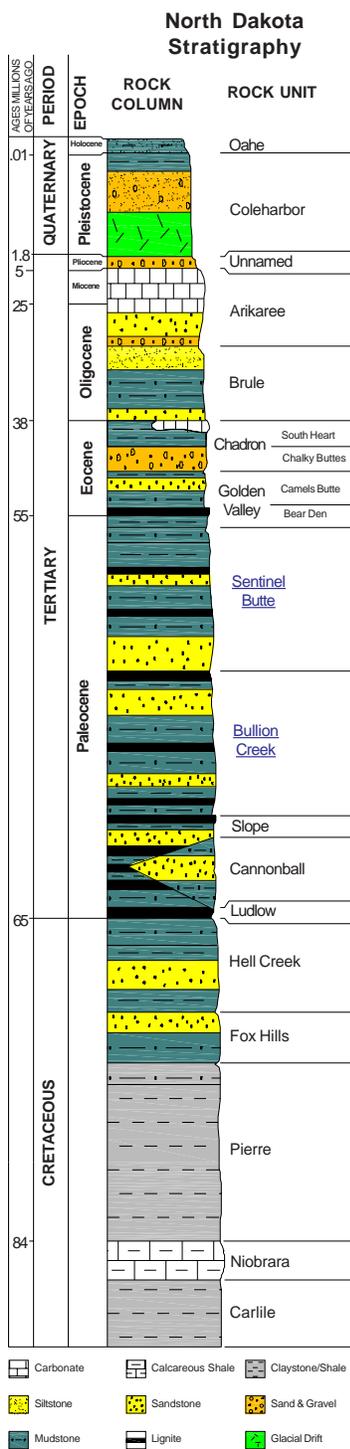


# Plesiadapis



**Common Name:**  
Lemur-like mammal

**Classification:**

**Class:** Mammalia

**Order:** Primates

**Family:** Plesiadapidae



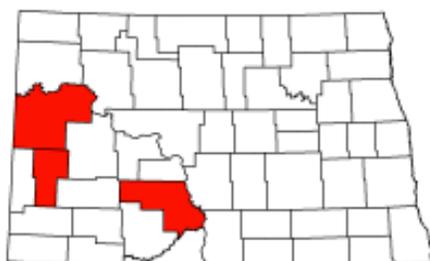
Jaw of the lemur-like mammal, *Plesiadapis*. [Bullion Creek Formation](#), Billings County. Width 24 mm. Science Museum of Minnesota Collection.

**Description:**

*Plesiadapis* was a lemur-like mammal the size of a modern-day beaver, about 2 ½ feet long. They had long tails, agile limbs with claws rather than nails, and eyes placed on the sides of their heads. Unlike modern primates, the head of *Plesiadapis* had a long snout with rodentlike jaws and teeth and long, gnawing incisors separated by a gap from its molars. It was well-adapted for climbing in trees with its long, clawed fingers and toes. *Plesiadapis* inhabited the vast forests that covered western North Dakota when the climate was subtropical, similar to south Florida today.



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



Locations where fossils have been found