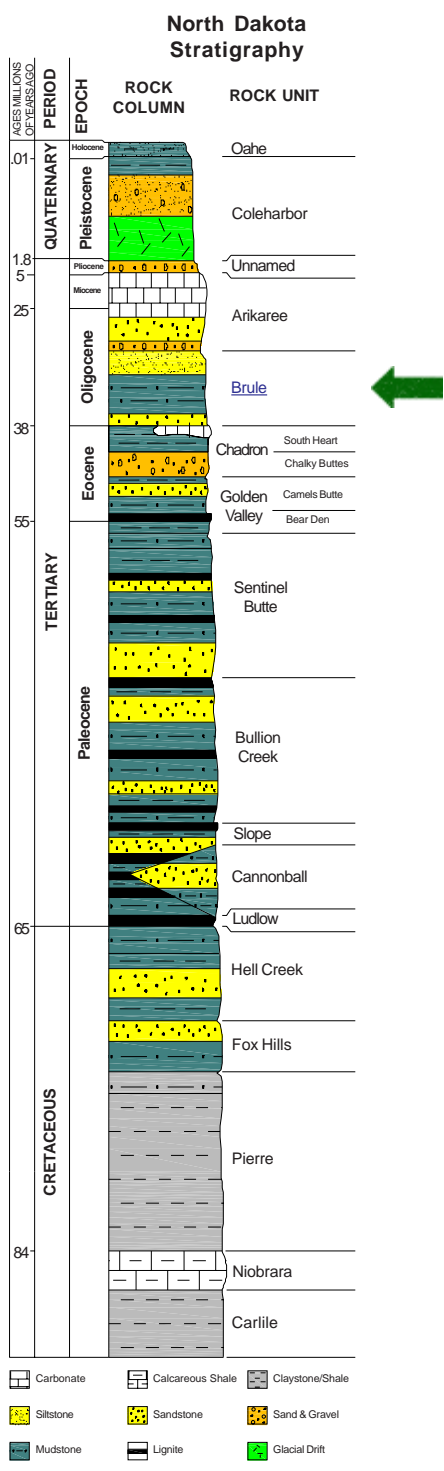


# Archaeotherium



**Common Name:**  
Pig-like mammal

**Classification:**  
**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Artiodactyla  
**Family:** Entelodontidae



Skull of the giant pig-like mammal, *Archeotherium*. 400 mm long. Oligocene Brule Formation. Stark County. North Dakota State Fossil Collection.

## Description:

*Archaeotherium* was similar in appearance to the living warthog and grew to lengths of about 4 feet. It had an elongate skull with unusual protrusions of bone on the lower jaws beneath the eyes. These bony knobs probably provided anchors for the powerful jaw muscles. *Archaeotherium* mostly ate roots and tubers but with its powerful jaws and teeth could eat most anything, even carrion, like modern pigs. The strong shoulder and neck muscles suggest that these animals spent much of their time rooting and grubbing in the ground. Large olfactory lobes indicate that they had a keen sense of smell.



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



Locations where fossils have been found