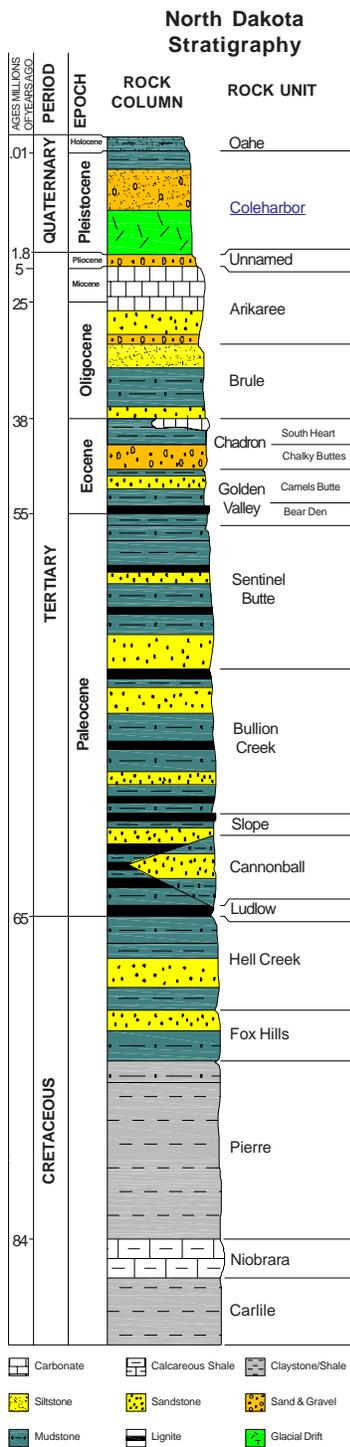


Castor



Common Name:
Beaver

Classification:
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Castoridae

Description:
Castor, beaver, have lived in North Dakota at least since the end of the last Ice Age about 11,000 years ago. Beavers are the largest rodents in North America and can weigh more than 60 pounds. They were much more abundant than today in North Dakota and were trapped for their fur during the fur trade era. Beavers are aquatic animals but usually live in streams where they construct dams of sticks, mud, and rocks to impound water to form ponds. They also construct and live in dome-shaped lodges also made of sticks and mud. They eat the bark and cambium from trees, especially willow, alders, birches, and aspens. Beaver gnawed wood and beaver scat have been found in the 11,000 year old Seibold Site in Stutsman County.



Castor. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found