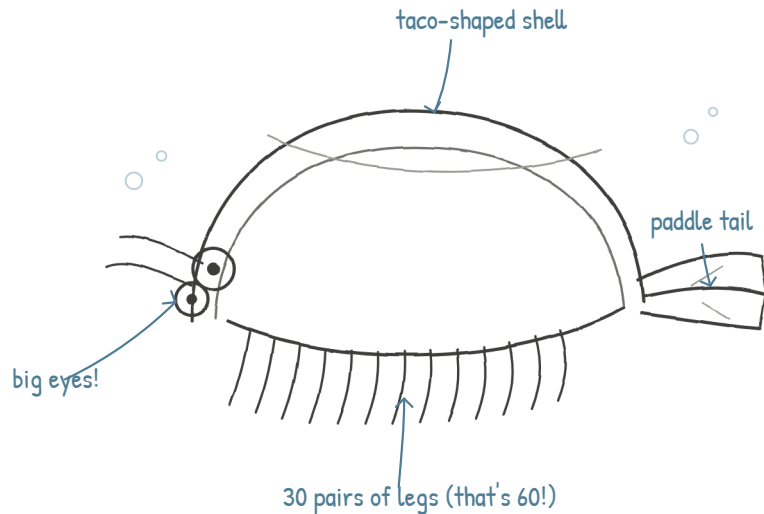


The Taco Fossil

A little "taco" that swam in the sea a long, long time ago.

Its real name is **Odaraia** (say it: oh-dah-RYE-ah)



My sketch of Odaraia, drawn from the fossil

A surprising little animal

Scientists looked very closely at a really, really old fossil. They saw something funny — its hard shell folded over the top like a **taco shell**! So lots of people gave it a silly nickname: "**the taco.**"

Not so simple after all

Odaraia was first found over 100 years ago in the Burgess Shale, a famous fossil bed in British Columbia, Canada. Even though evolutionists say these rocks are very old, Odaraia was already wonderfully complex — not simple at all. That surprises scientists who expect simple creatures in "early" layers, but it's just what we'd expect from a world God made complete from the start.

What was it like?

It was a tiny sea creature, only about as long as a new pencil. It had a hard shell on top, two big eyes that peeked out the front, and a **paddle tail** for swimming. Best of all, it had **30 pairs of legs** — that's 60 little legs! Some scientists even think it swam *upside down*. Silly taco!

The amazing clue

Here's the cool part. The fossil is so clear that you can still see its teeny-tiny legs! When a sea animal dies and just lies on the bottom, it rots away and falls apart. So for all these little parts to be saved, the taco must have been covered by **mud very, very fast**. Fast mud makes a fantastic fossil.

Why this points to God

- ✓ **It is made so well.** Even this "old" creature is amazing and complicated, with eyes, a shell, and 60 working legs. Something made this carefully needs a clever Maker — and that Maker is God.
- ✓ **It matches the Bible.** The Bible tells about a huge Flood in Noah's day, when lots of water and mud covered the earth fast. Fast mud is exactly what makes fossils like this one. The clue fits God's Word!
- ✓ **It shows God's care.** God made the sea and every creature in it — even a funny taco-shaped one — and He said it was good.

"God created the great sea creatures ... and God saw that it was good."

— Genesis 1:21

Next time you eat a taco, remember the little taco that swam in the sea — and the great God who made it!

Retold for young readers from "Taco-like fossil from the Burgess Shale was buried rapidly" [creation.com/en/articles/fossil-taco] by Philip Bell, Creation.com (Creation Ministries International). Bible verse from the World English Bible (public domain).

© 2026 Jim Huebner / Defending My Hope. Retelling, illustration, and layout are original work; the underlying reporting remains the property of its publisher.