The Copper Coast through geological time

Copper Coast Geopark

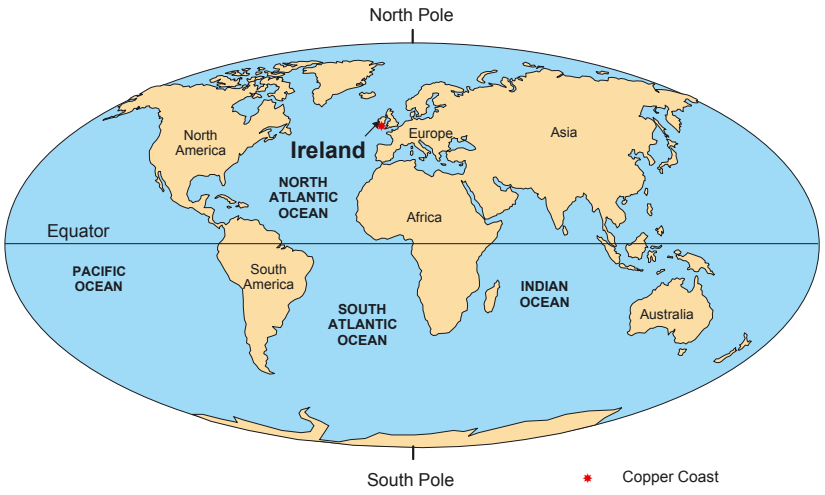
AGE (millions of years)	TIME PERIOD NAME		THE ANCIENT ENVIRONMENTS OF IRELAND	COPPER COAST ROCKS
Today				
0.12	Quaternary	Age of Man	*All ice cover melted; rising sea levels*	soil; sub-soil clay, sand, gravel
			Ice Age *Glaciers, ice sculpted landscapes*	
1.8	Tertiary		**Swamps, lagoons and volcanoes** *Opening of the North Atlantic Ocean*	
60				
65	Cretaceous	Age of Dinosaurs	*Dinosaur extinction* **Coastal plain to shallow sea**	
144	Jurassic		**Coastal plain to shallow sea**	
203	Triassic		**Desert**	
250	Permian		**Desert**	
298	Carboniferous		*Delta swamps* **Shallow tropical seas** *Coral "reefs" and rich shellfish faunas*	limestone; COPPER ORE FORMATION
354	Devonian		*Desert river systems* **Desert**	red sandstones, conglomerate
410	Silurian		*Continental collision: mountain building* **Ocean floor**	
440	Ordovician		*ocean floor mud* / *sea floor volcanoes* / *ocean floor mud and shell debris* / *sea floor volcanoes* / *ocean floor mud* **Ocean floor**	shale / rhyolite / limestone / basalt, andesite / shale
495	Cambrian		**Shallow sea**	
545	Pre-Cambrian		**Formation of the Solar System and Planet Earth**	
1800				
4500				

Geological Time Scale not to scale

The world, 2 million years ago (Ice age and today)

Copper Coast rocks: glacial till or boulder clay

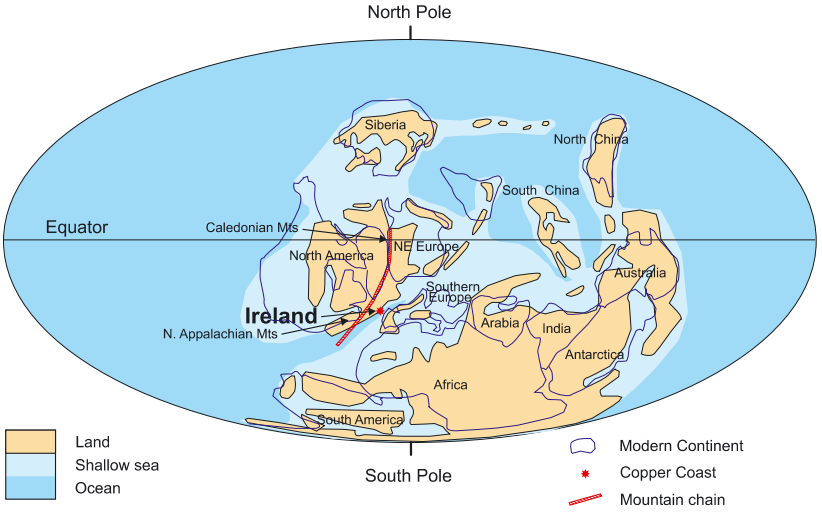
Environment: Continental, glacial



The world, 360 million years ago (Devonian time)

Copper Coast rocks: old red sandstone, conglomerate, copper

Environment: Continental, desert



The world, 460 million years ago (Ordovician time)

Copper Coast rocks: mudstones, volcanic rocks and limestone

Environment: Marine, ocean