# GEOCHEMISTRY AND EARTH HISTORY

# Homework for Friday

- Use Google Scholar to find a journal article that combines your interests in Geology and Chemistry to tell an interesting/meaningful story....
- What to turn in on Friday
  - A reference to the article
  - A summary paragraph
  - Be ready to share what you learned with the class.

# Dynamic change on Earth and Beyond Matter Chemistry

Energy/Processes

Metamorphism to diagenesis

Products

Earth History

# Matter – bodies of atoms, elements, minerals

Air

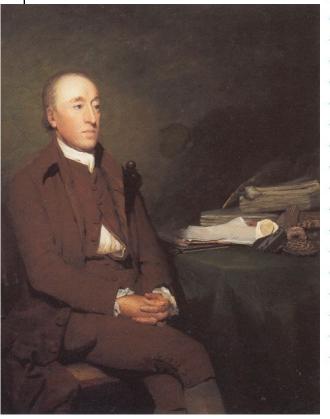
Magma – Lava – Minerals to Rocks – Sediments to Soils

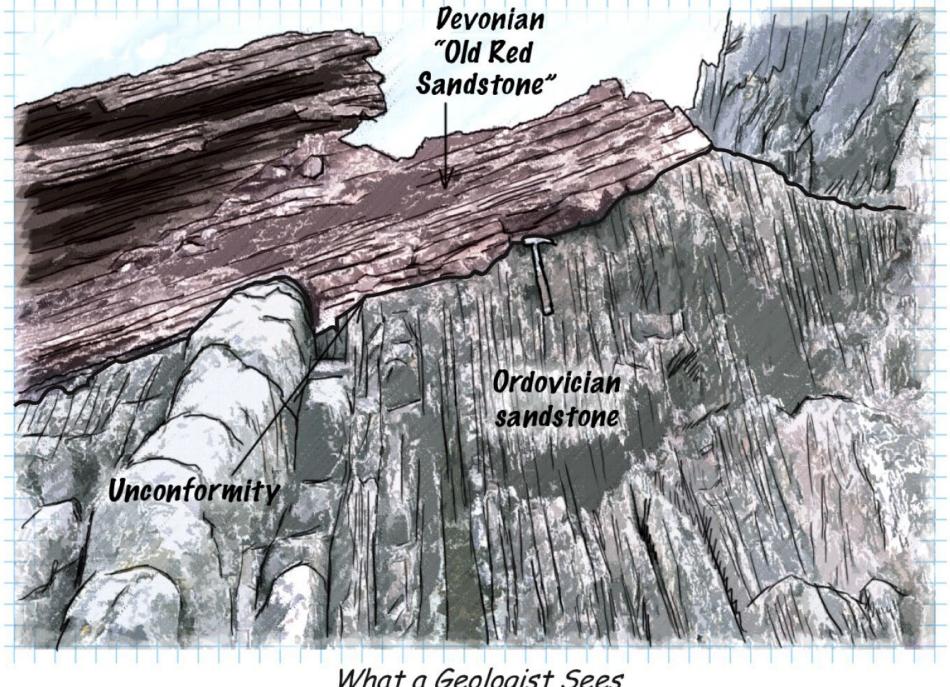
• Water – Ice

• Life

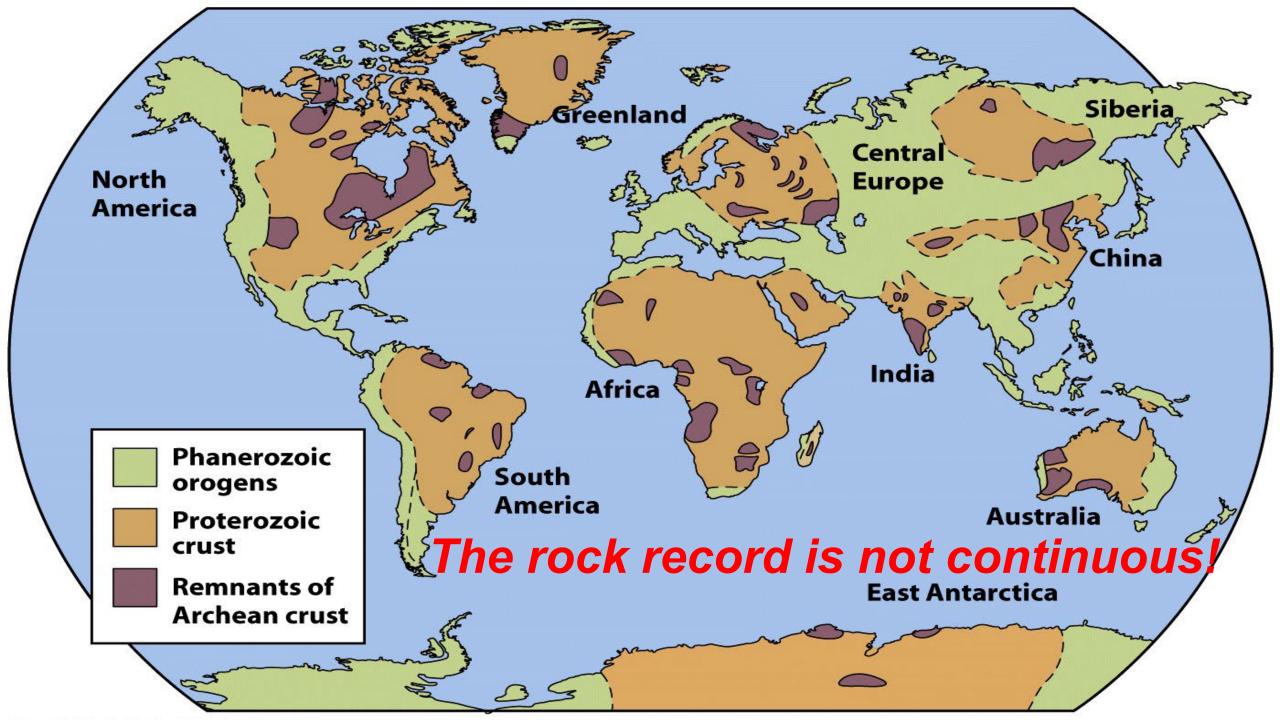
Phase changes and cycles

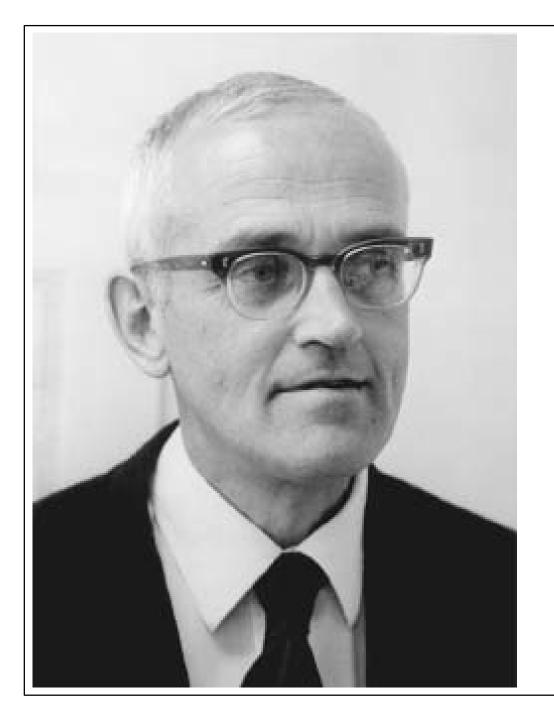
# James Hutton





What a Geologist Sees





# Absolute Age Dating

# Clair Patterson Mitchellville, Iowa

Some consider him the most influential geochemist/geologist of the century!

# **SNOWBALL EARTH**

**Example of Geochemistry** 

#### https://francismacdonald.fas.harvard.edu/

# Neoproterozoic Cryogenian

Ediacaran Cryogenian 635 Ma Tonian 720

541

Ma

1000

- Till vs Tillite
- Iceberg deposited dropstones
  - Even along the Equator

Gaskers 582

584

Marinoan 635

650



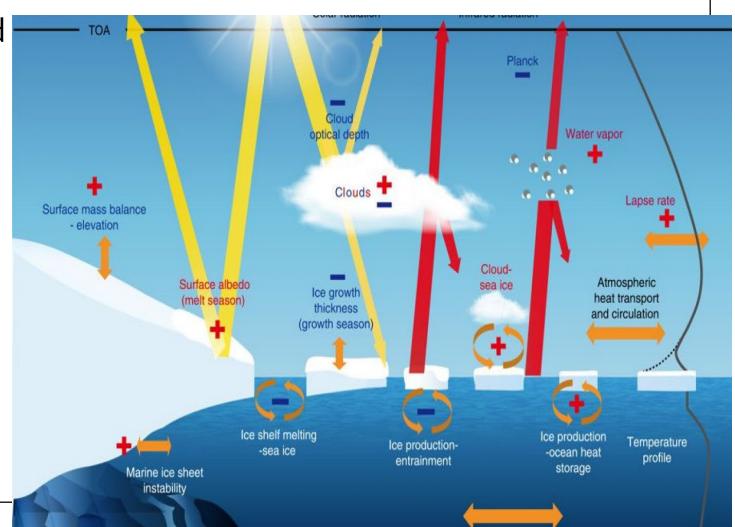


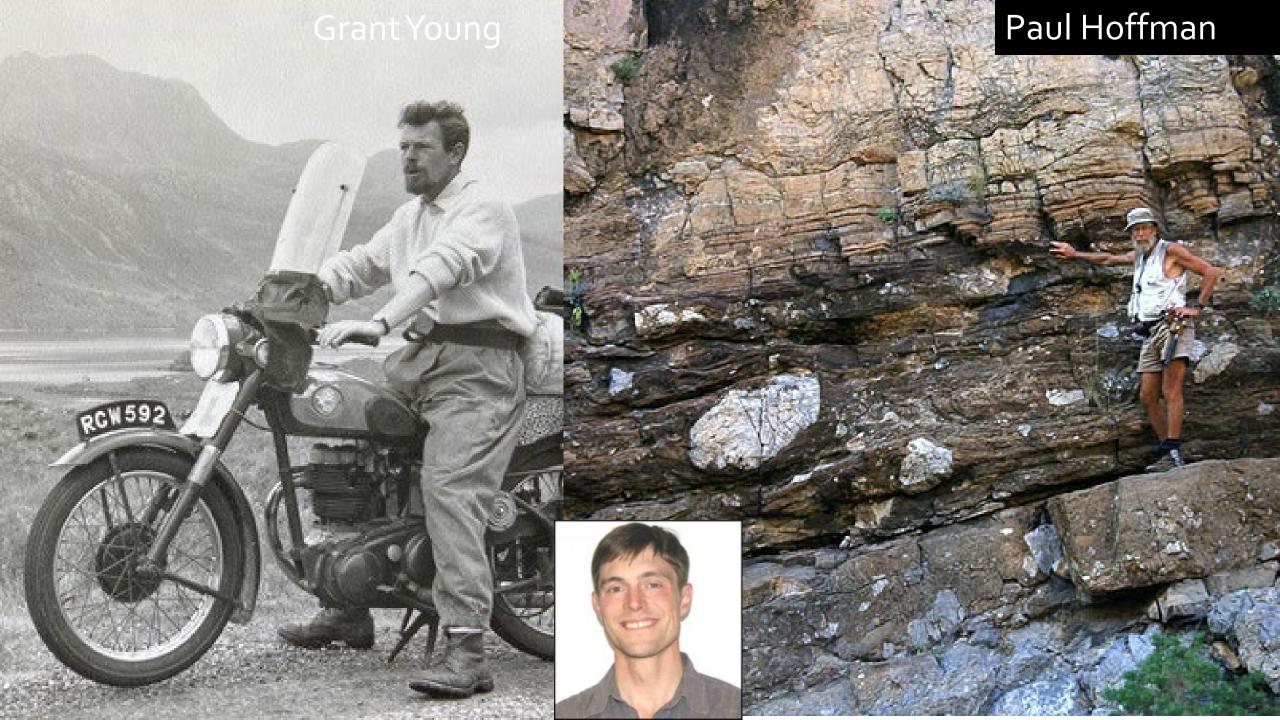


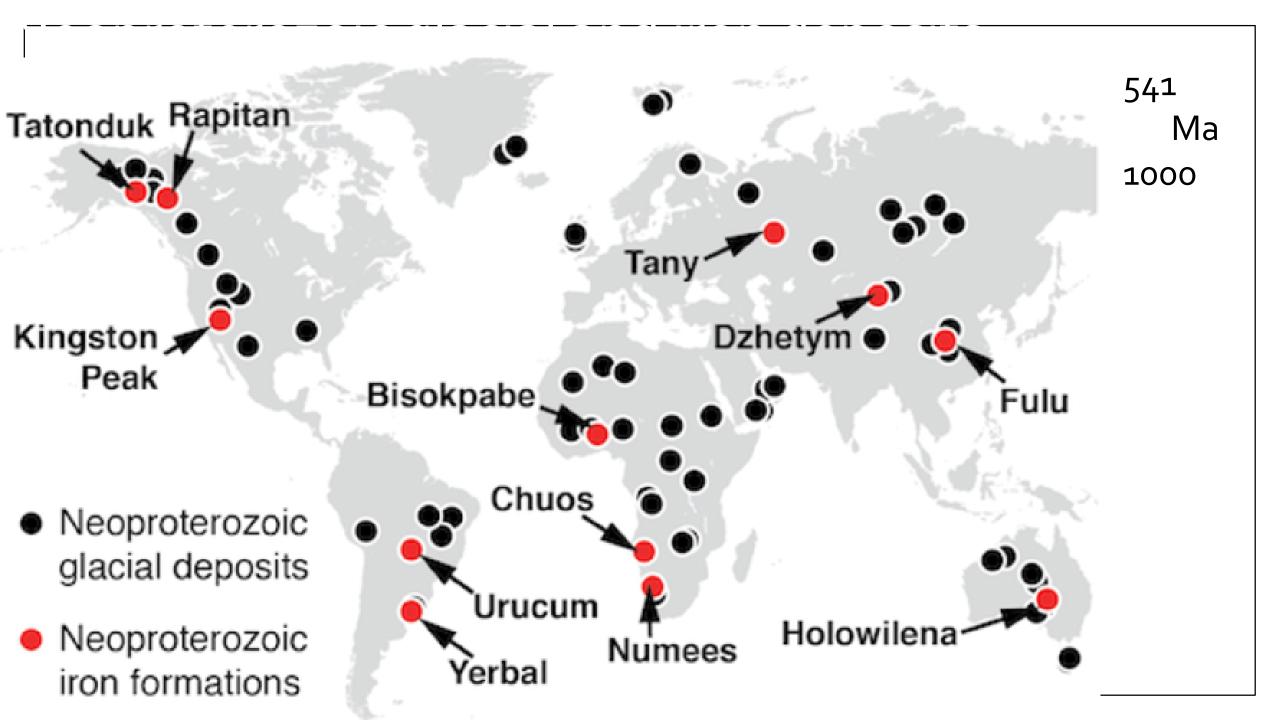
660 Sturtian 750

# Hypotheses – Potential contributing factors

- Winter snow must extend into and through summer
- Solar radiation was 6% less lower than today
  - H to He, increased core density
- Neoproterozoic Supercontinent
  - Rodinia, equatorial, easier for intercontinental glacial expansion
- Positive Feedback
  - Glacial albedo







### Banded Iron Formations (BIF)

#### Initial Hypothesis –

 Started again in correlation with glaciations because O<sub>2</sub> concentration was low due to increased ice cover' Similar to Archean Seas...

#### Current hypothesis

- O<sub>2</sub> isn't the most important factor, Rather BIF are common during increased seafloor. hydrothermal activity
- BIFs were developed during glacial retreat, causing sea level to rise





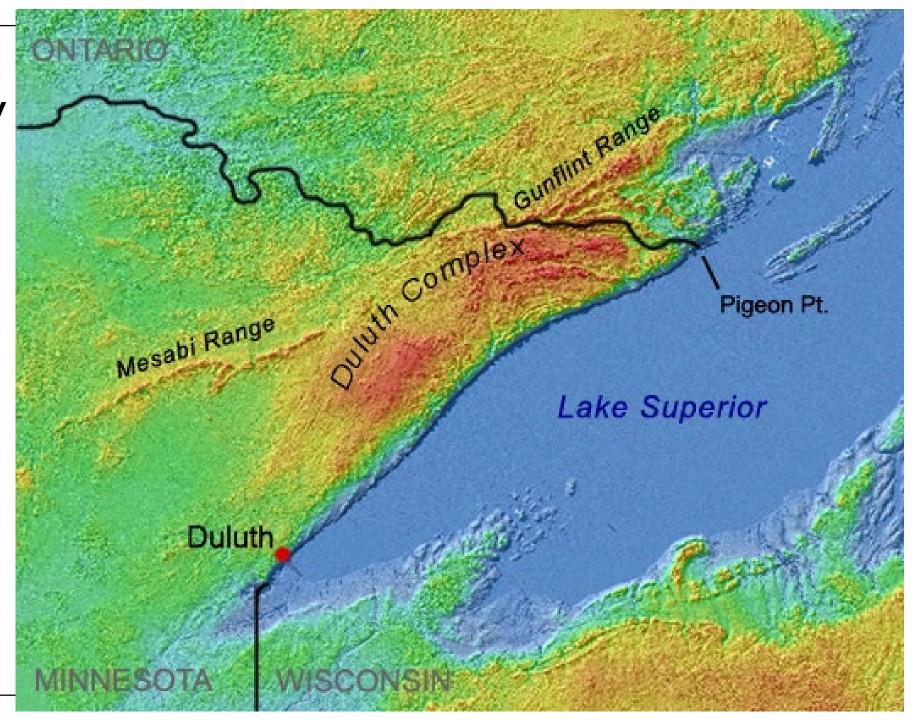
#### Evidence for...

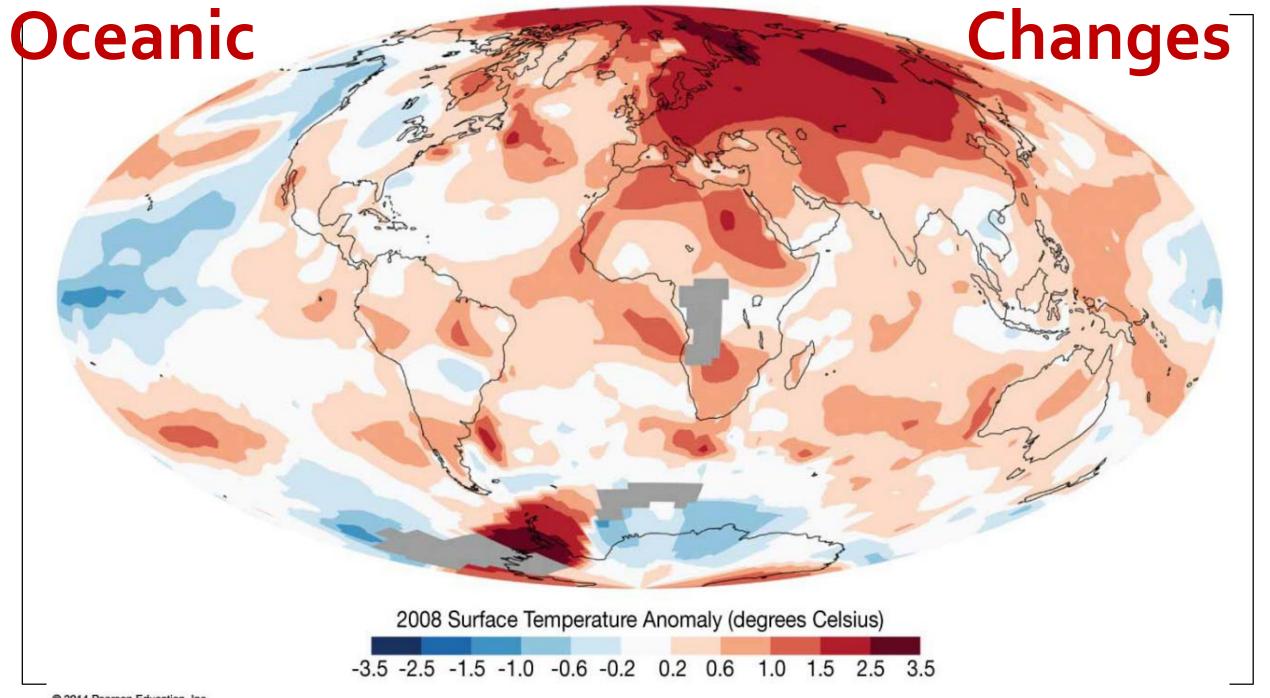
- If the oceans were frozen, they would become depleted in O<sub>2</sub> because photosynthesis from phytoplankton would end.
- Aerobic bacteria would continue until all dissolved O<sub>2</sub> would be used.

### Against...

- There are no oceanic Mass Extinctions during the Neoproterozoic
- There is evidence of dropstones in both Sturtian and Marinoan Tillites.

# Geochemistry & Geophysics





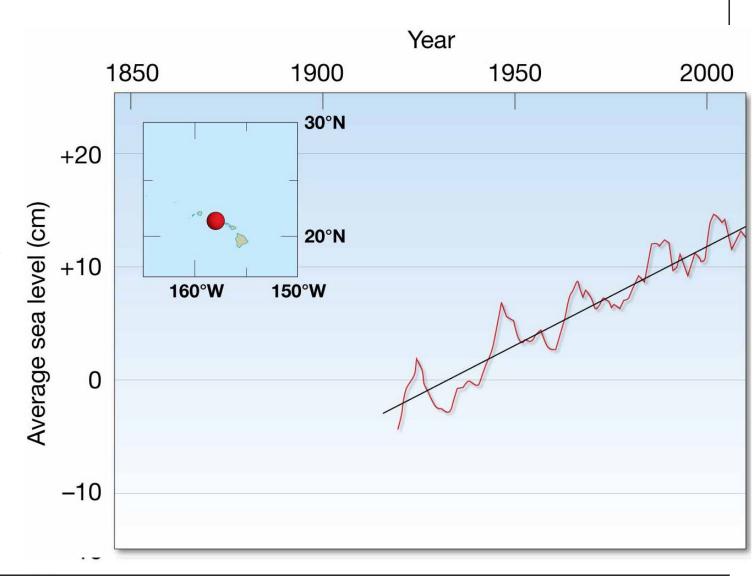
# Melting polar ice

- Accelerating
- Arctic Amplification
  - Warming leads to less ice
    - Less ice leads to more warming
      - Positive feedback loop

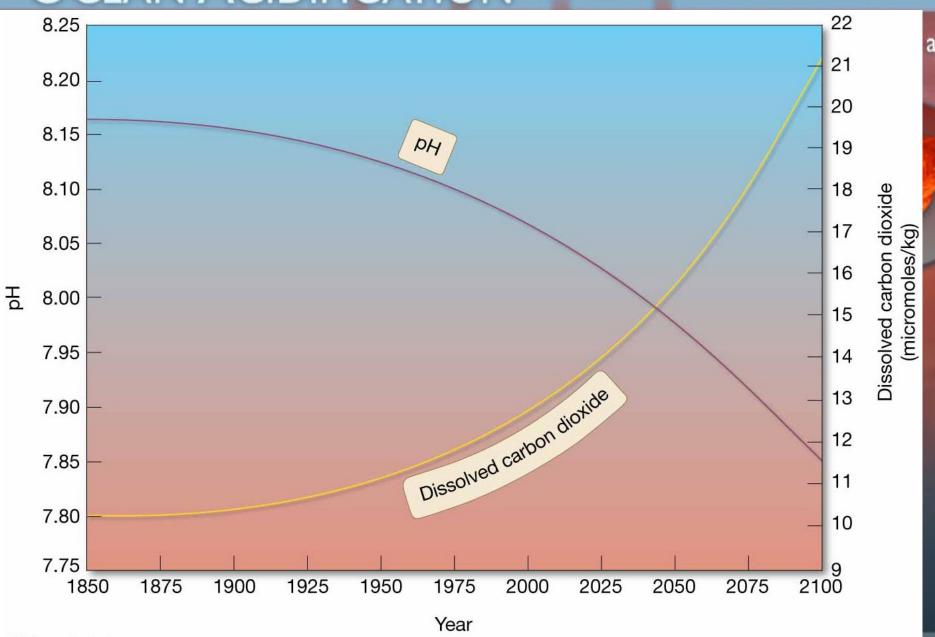


## Sea level rise

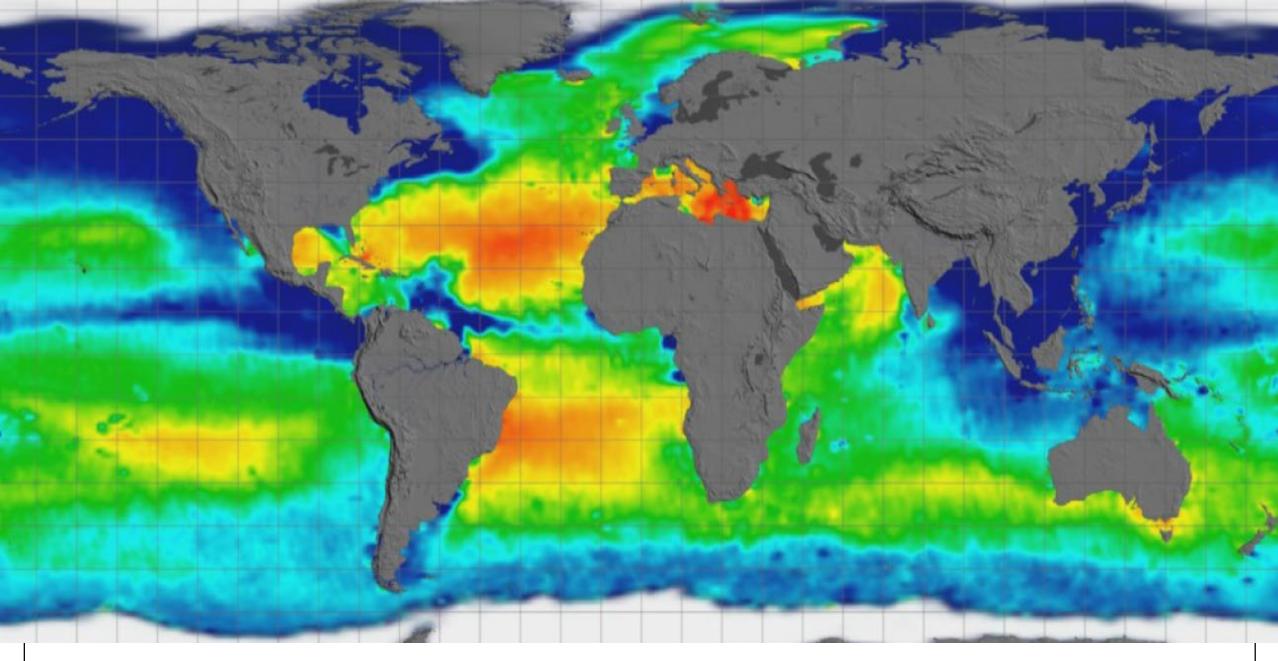
- Thermal expansion
  - Expansion of surface water
  - Expansion of deep water
- Increased water availability
  - Melting of Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets
  - Melting of Terrestrial glaciers



# OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



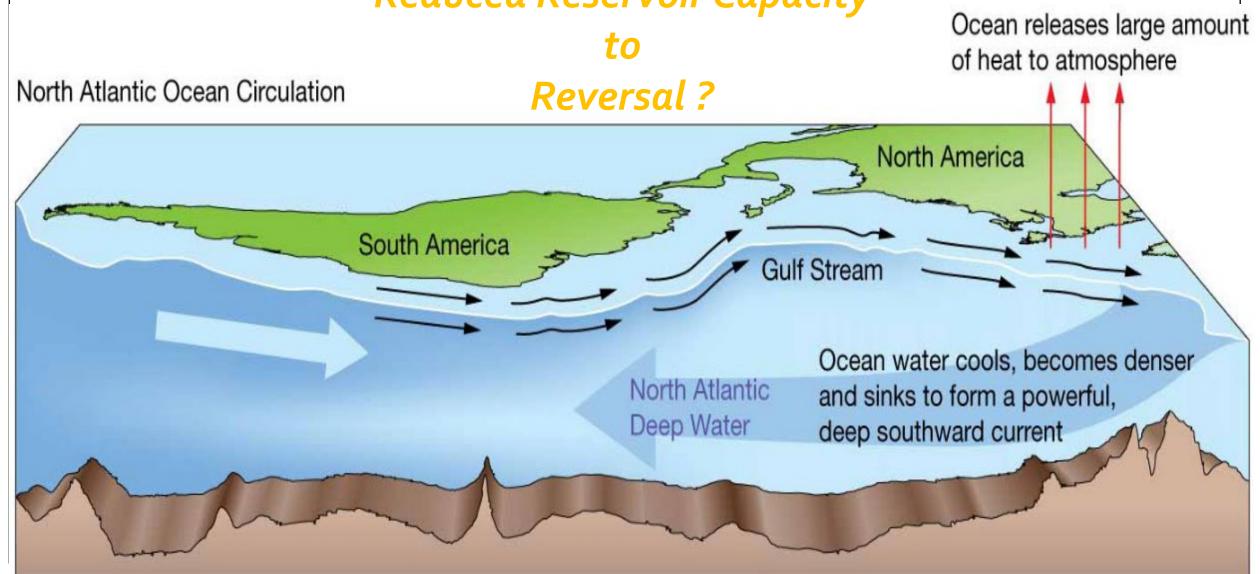




https://salinity.oceansciences.org/highlightso3.htm

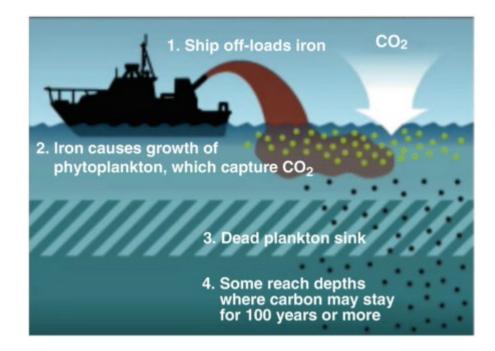
# Changes in Deep Ocean Currents and storage

Reduced Reservoir Capacity



# GeoEngineering

- Carbon Dioxide Sequestration
- Iron Hypothesis



• Good ideas?

**NORTH DAKOTA** IS A GREAT PLACE FOR CCUS Carbon dioxide from North Doketa's CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION, AND STORAGE energy development and consumption (CCUS) ADDRESSES AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE. is one of those preenhouse pases. AND NORTH DAKOTA IS A GREAT PLACE TO DO IT. CCUS reduces CO, emissions. Scientists are concerned that increased greenhouse gases from human activities are contributing to climate change. from large, stationary sources. WHAT IS COUST Carbon capture, utilization, and storage is a method of algoriticantly reducing CO, emissions to the atmosphere. N.DAK. ONT EDAK. IOWA ILL.

https://grist.org/energy/a-midwest-pipeline-promises-toreturn-carbon-dioxide-to-the-ground/





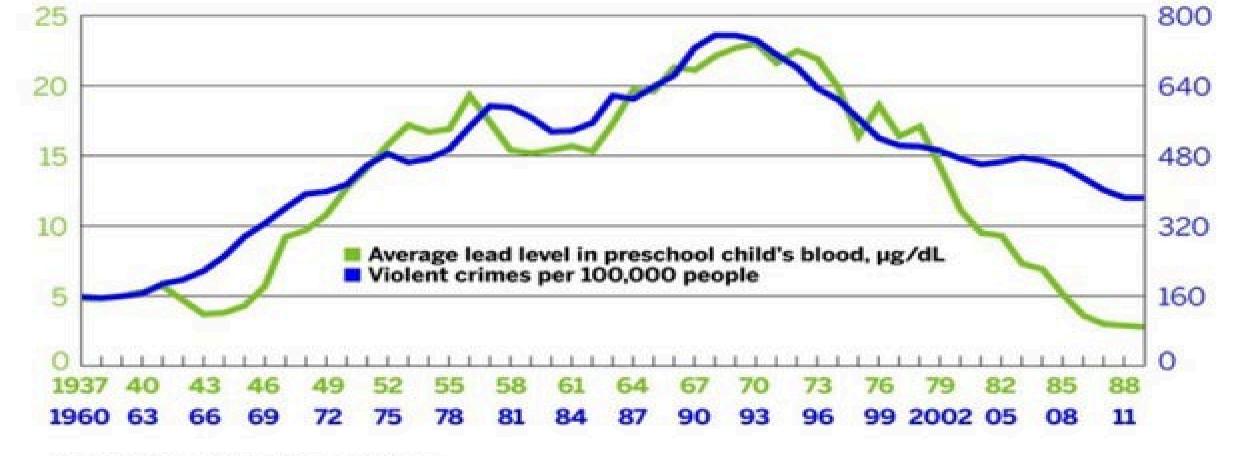
# EXPLORING CO2 MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS



SWITZERLAND

CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE IN CONCRETE

DEMOUP GARMA



#### A timeline of lead reduction

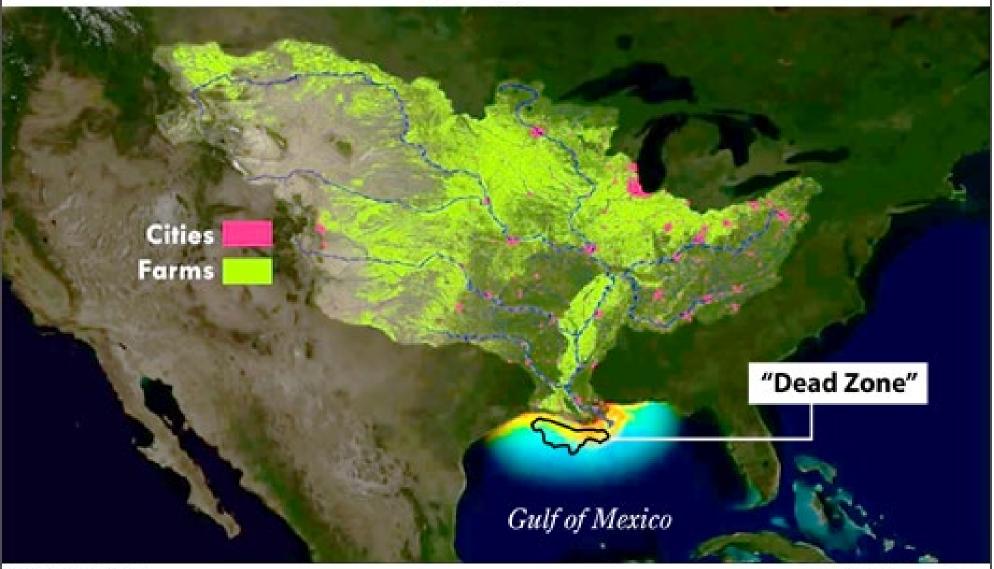
1970
CDC sets
acceptable
blood-lead
level of
40 µg/dL

1973 EPA mandates a phaseout of leaded gasoline

1978 CPSC bans residential lead paint 1991 CDC sets acceptable blood-lead level of 10 µg/dL 1996 EPA eliminates lead from all U.S. motor fuel 2012
CDC describes
blood-lead
level of
>5 µg/dL
as elevated

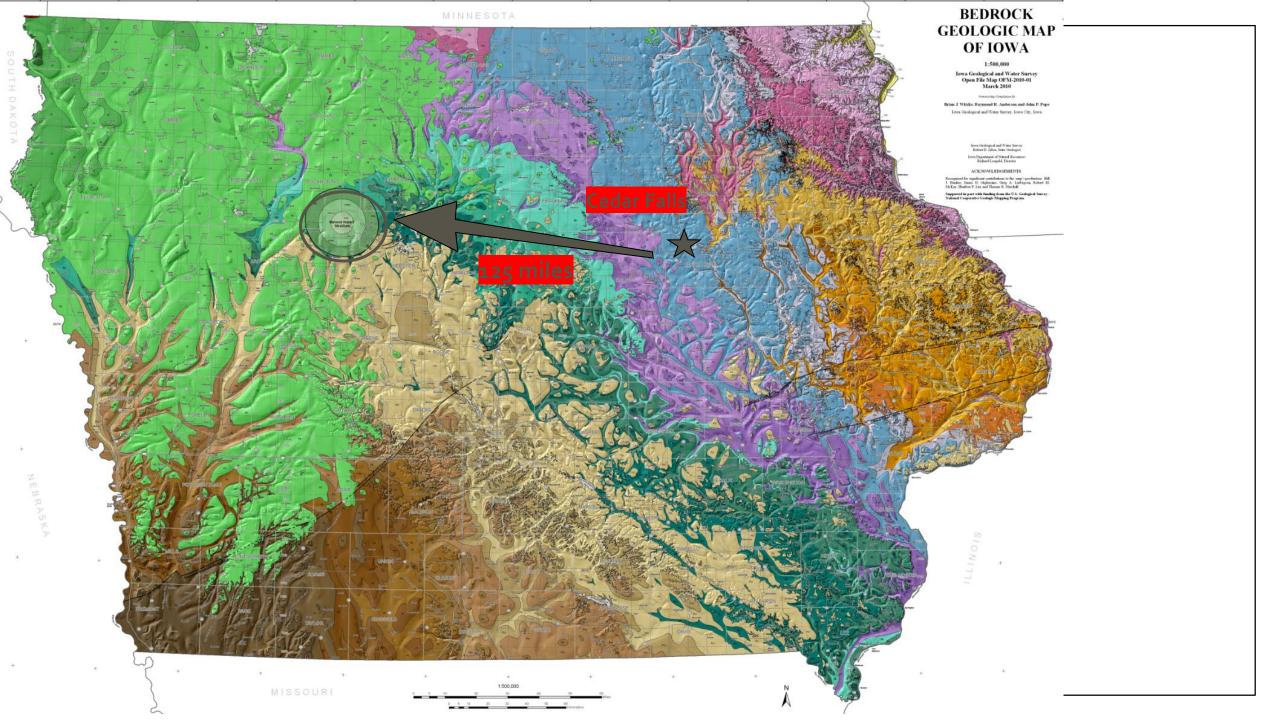
#### **Gulf'Dead Zone' Chokes Marine Life**

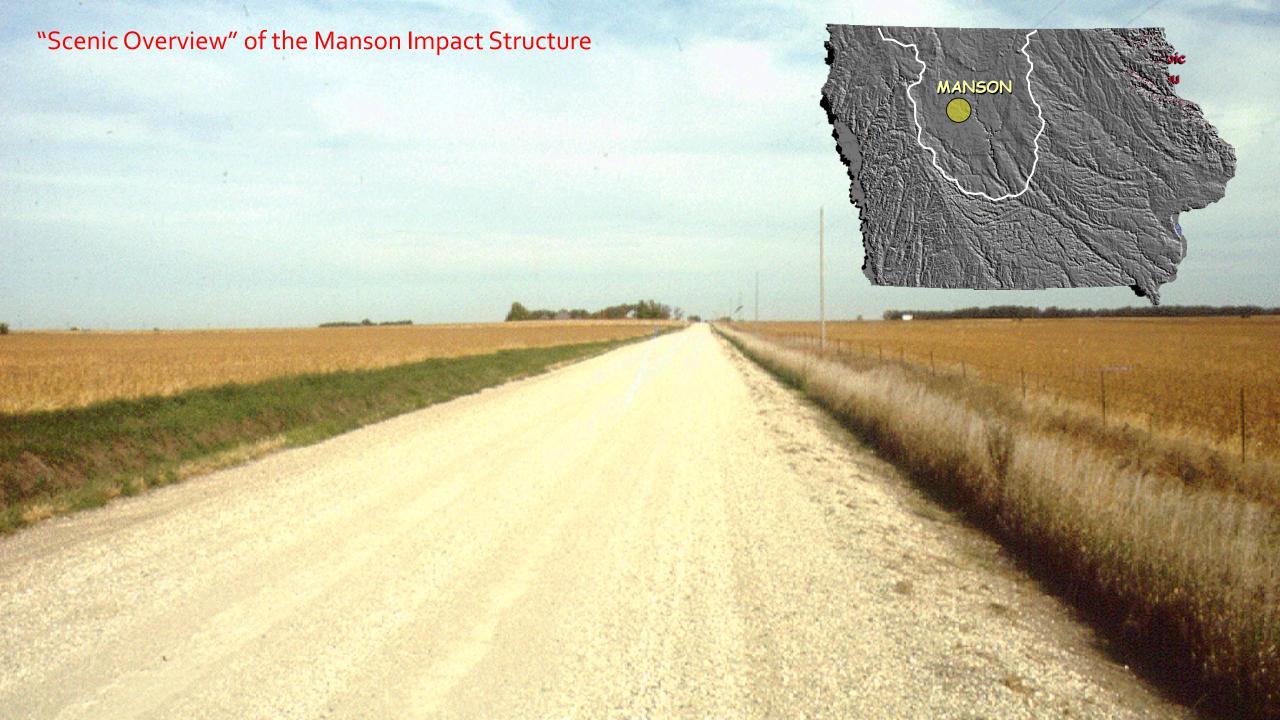
The Gulf of Mexico at the Mississippi River Delta experiences a seasonal hypoxia, or "dead zone," where there is not enough oxygen in the water to sustain marine life.



SOURCE: NOAA InsideClimate News







#### Iowa Geological Survey Annual Report Volume 33 1928

The facies of the cuttings also is abnormal, especially in the appearance of conglomerate and in the large amount of arkosic material. In some aspects they are strikingly similar to those of the De Witt well below the Saint Peter sandstone, and to similar sections at Maquoketa and Preston, which the writer has interpreted as the fill of deep erosion channels cut in rocks of the Prairie du Chien during the interval preceding the deposit of the

Saint Peter sandstone

The exceptional character and thickness of the shales and arkose of the Manson well are explainable by a like hypothesis—the fill with continental deposits, and finally with marine sediments also, of a valley of erosion. The depth of the valley, 300 feet deeper than that of the Mississippi in northeastern Iowa, is notable. The arkosic material of the fill suggests that the headwaters of the river worked in the igneous rocks of the states bordering Iowa on the north.

The deposits themselves, so far as the cuttings reveal them, do not appear to offer conclusive evidence as to their age, whether they were laid at the close of the long erosion interval preceding the deposit of the Pennsylvanian or of that preceding the Cretaceous. The fact that Manson is located less than 5 miles west of the provisional eastern border of the Cretaceous would preclude the expectation of finding there any great thickness of normal marine sedimentary deposits of Cretaceous age, but not the fill of a deep pre-Cretaceous valley.

# DEEP WELLS OF IOWA (A Supplementary Report)

by

W.H. NORTON

WITH A CHAPTER ON

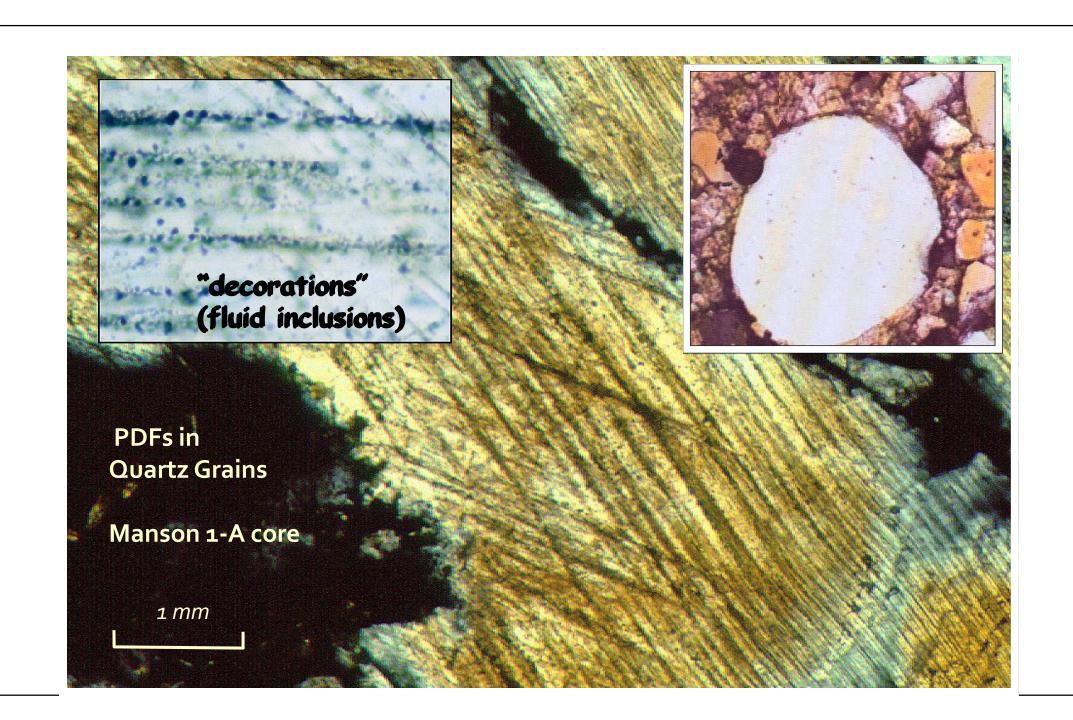
Well Water Recessions in Iowa

by

James H. Lees

WITH A TABLE OF IOWA TOWNS GIVING

Municipal Water Supplies



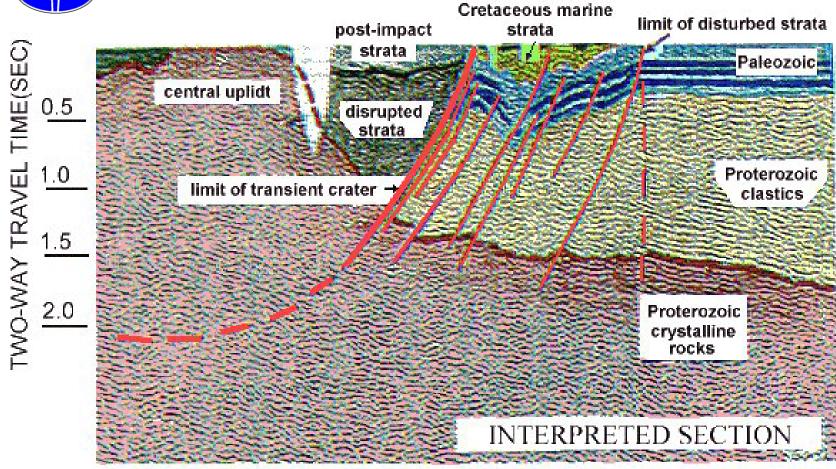


The late Luis Alvarez, a physicist, and his geologist son, Walter, examine a clue to the dinosaurs' demise.

1980



#### REFLECTION SEISMIC PROFILE



Seismic data courtesy of Amoco Production Co.

