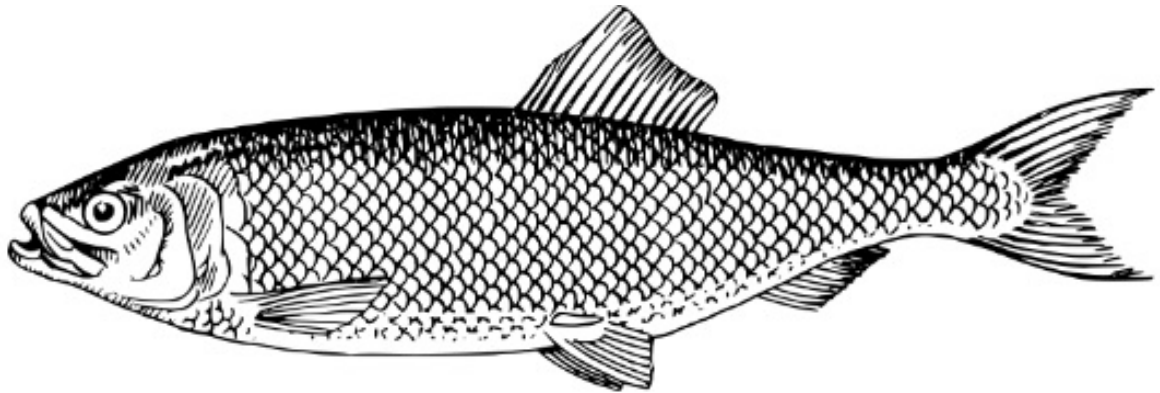


# HERRING TALES

*Good Stories for Home Schools*



*with activities*

A free resource from [www.herripedia.com](http://www.herripedia.com)

No 1: Fossils & Farts

# FOSSILS & FARTS

This is a very old herring. It is a fossil. When it died it lay in the mud. Over millions of years the mud became rock. The fossil is a hundred million years old.



There weren't any people, then, to eat the herrings. But it's smaller than your thumb - so it wouldn't make much of a meal!

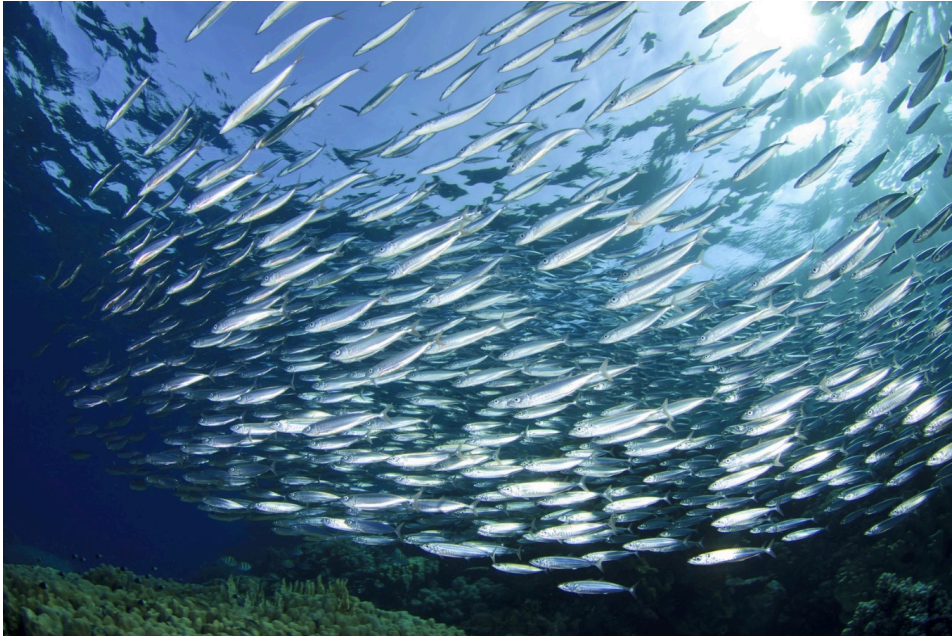
All the lands in the world were joined once. Slowly they moved apart. North America, Europe and most of Asia became Laurasia. South America, Africa, India and Australia became Gondwanaland. This little fish swam in the sea between.



These herring fossils are only fifty million years old. They didn't live in the sea. They lived in rivers and lakes. They were the size of a small carrot. These were part of shoal.

Herrings swim in shoals. It's safer. There are so many fish in the shoal, big fish don't know which one to catch. Herrings are bright silver too. This helps to confuse big fish as the herrings flash past. Even if the big fish catches some, most escape.

Shoals are really beautiful. There is a picture on the next page.



These are herrings today. Each one is big enough for a whole meal. Sometimes the shoal swims in circles like a fish tornado!

In the shoal they talk to each other by farting. Yes, they do - little squeaky farts. Not pumpy-pumpy but peepy-peepy.

Some people think they're saying where they are, so the shoal can keep together. But nobody knows. Maybe they are saying, 'Let's do a fish tornado!' 'Food is this way!' or 'Watch out, there's a big fish about!'

## **Activities**

Draw a picture of a herring shoal.

What do you think they might be saying to each other.

Write a story about a herring.