

# Climate Change and the Rise of Mammals



The earliest marsupial, monotreme, and placental mammals appeared during the middle part of the Cretaceous. In addition, a now-extinct group of rodent-like forms, the multituberculates, known from the Jurassic, had become common in Asia and North America. Although many types of mammals were present, they were a relatively inconspicuous part of the fauna until the succeeding Paleocene Epoch.