



Universität
Bremen



Geosciences Working Group 2026

The Geosciences Working Group of the Faculty 5 of the University of Bremen offers an introduction to geology, palaeontology and mineralogy to the public every second Thursday of the month at 7:20 pm. These meetings give the chance to discuss with each other and to get advice from a scientist. The meetings include a generally comprehensible talk on geoscientific topics. Further information can be found on our homepage:
www.geosammlung.uni-bremen.de

8th of January 2026

Lecturer: Elke Menke

Topic: Everything but fish – vertebrate fossils from Cadzand

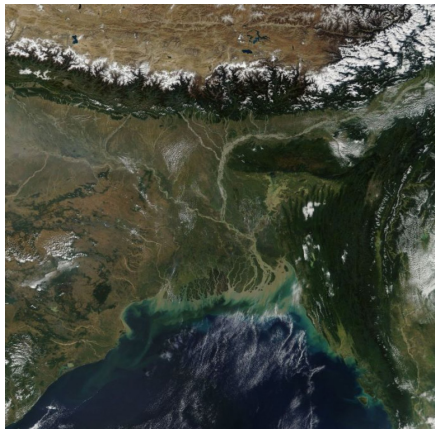


The beaches of Cadzand in the Netherlands are classic sites for collecting fossilized shark and ray teeth. Less well known is that a wide range of vertebrate finds besides cartilaginous fish are possible there. In addition to the geographical and geological situation, the lecture will also present finding strategies and, of course, fossils from various vertebrate classes.

12th of February 2026

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Elda Miramontes García

Topic: The Bengal Fan – A Vast Underwater Landscape



The deep sea often appears calm and still – but in reality, it can sometimes be quite turbulent. Enormous currents of water and sediment, known as turbidity currents, shape the seafloor and transport sand, silt, clay, and organic material over thousands of kilometres. This talk illustrates how these processes gave rise to the Bengal Fan – the largest sedimentary deposit on Earth, fed by sediments carried from the Himalayas to the sea via the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.

5th of March 2026

Lecturers: Michael Guhl

Topic: Food for the dinosaurs – The flora of the Mesozoic era

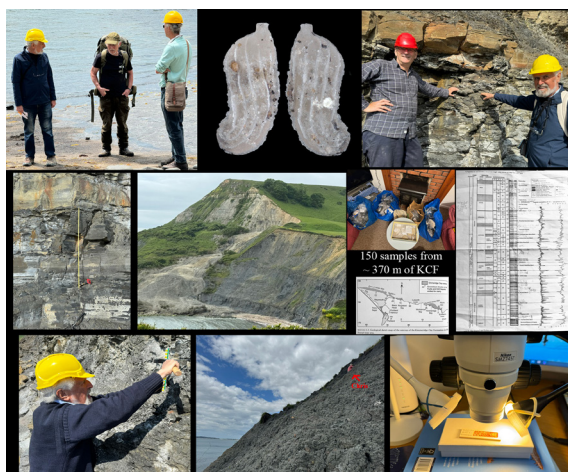


The landscapes of the Mesozoic era were roamed by the largest land-dwelling herbivores that ever lived on Earth. Many of them lived in large herds, which had a significant impact on the vegetation. The forests consisted of conifers and ginkgo trees, with ferns, cycads, and the mysterious Bennettitales. Flowering plants did not appear until much later. What did these landscapes look like, and how were these ecosystems able to survive for so long? The lecture presents reconstructions and images of a fascinating plant world of the past.

9th of April 2026

Lecturer: Michael Hesemann

Topic: Microfossils between cliffs and microscope – A research trip to the Jurassic Coast of Dorset

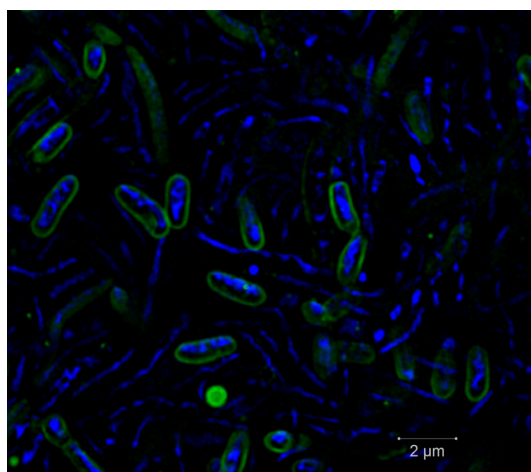


The Jurassic Coast in Dorset is world-famous for its spectacular cliffs and fossils. Together with Steve Etches and his team from “The Etches Collection – Museum of Jurassic Marine Life,” we collected 140 rock samples to find and analyze microfossils. The lecture takes a look behind the scenes at the planning and execution of the research trip, the processing of the material, and reports on the initial results. Our poster featuring significant microfossils has recently been displayed at the Etches Collection in Kimmeridge, see <https://foraminifera.eu/kcf-poster.html>.

7th of May 2026

Lecturer: Dr. Greta Reintjes

Topic: Microbes, sugar, and the climate: an invisible connection in the ocean



In the ocean, tiny algae constantly produce sugars that serve as food for other marine life. Invisible to the naked eye but enormously important, bacteria use these sugars in their own unique way – and in doing so influence how much carbon is stored or released back into the sea. These processes are not yet fully understood, and that is precisely what we are trying to decipher in our research.

11th of Juny 2026

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Jens Lehmann

Topic: Jurassic Coast – England's window into the history of the Earth



Along the south coast of England, the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Jurassic Coast” tells the story of 185 million years of Earth's history – from the rocks of the Triassic period to the fossils of the Jurassic period to the cliffs of the Cretaceous. Erosion has exposed layer upon layer of ancient landscapes in which life changed and new species emerged. The region offers unique insights into the dynamics of the Earth – a living archive of evolution and a paradise for geology and fossil enthusiasts.

17th of September 2026

Lecturer: Jürgen Reinhardt

Topic: Special edition! – Geo-news from recent years



In this exciting and varied lecture, Jürgen Reinhardt takes us on a journey of discovery through the latest findings in geosciences. He reports on fascinating new dinosaur discoveries, surprising findings in genetics, and fresh insights into past extinction events. A lecture that shows how lively and dynamic research into the history of the Earth is today!

8th of October 2026

Lecturer: Werner Liebenberg

Topic: Thuringian geological highlights



The lecture takes you to well-known and lesser-known geological outcrops in Thuringia, eastern Germany. Interesting specimens from historical sites will be presented from the Geosciences Collection of the University of Bremen's.

5th of November 2026

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Jochen Kuss & Prof. Dr. Jens Lehmann

Topic: Bornholm – a geological gem in the Baltic Sea



Bornholm is Denmark's rugged rocky island, shaped by a unique and eventful geological history. The geological journey through time leads from ancient crystalline rocks, formed from magma 1.45 billion years ago, to the first traces of life in the Cambrian period, to coal, corals, and catastrophes of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. The most recent deposits discussed in the lecture belong to the Cretaceous period. The lecture shows unusual fossils – such as the *Lituites* and the cone-shaped *hyoliths*, whose true nature has only been deciphered a few years ago.

11th of December 2026

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Jens Lehmann

Topic: Christmas Party of the Working Group - An Evening of Discoveries



In 2026, many Bremen residents have once again collected rocks, fossils and minerals. At our upcoming Christmas party, which offers a cozy opportunity to get together, the 'Exhibit of the Year' will be awarded. Whether it comes from around Bremen, distant corners of Europe, or even overseas, we are looking for the most fascinating, beautiful, or best prepared specimen. Those present will have the opportunity to vote for the 'Weser GeoHighlight 2026' and the winner will receive a prize.

The Geosammlung will also present its most important new acquisitions of the year in an exciting review of the year. We have used the year 2026 to expand our collection and make some impressive finds that we would like to share with you.

Look forward to an evening of discoveries and be excited about our lecture program for 2027. We cordially invite you to join us in exploring the fascinating world of stones, fossils and minerals.