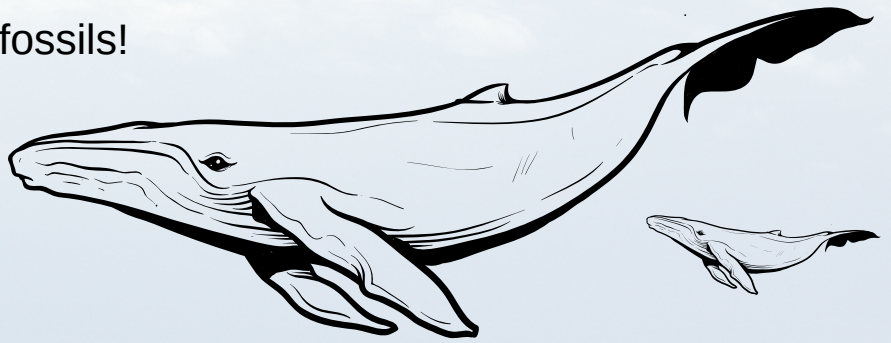


25 MILLION YEARS AGO - ELEPHANT ROCKS

Twenty-five million years ago much of Zealandia was under the sea...only wee islands were poking above the water!

The seas were warmer than today and there was lots of sea life – from tiny algae to large creatures like baleen whales. When these creatures died, they fell to the seafloor. As time went on they were buried by more creatures. Limestone was formed! Yes - limestone is made of millions upon millions of fossils!



Since this time Zealandia has been uplifted and the sea level has gone down to where we see it at the beach today (40km to the south-east). The limestone poking out of the ground is eroded by the weather – wind and rain wear away at the surface of the limestone. Rain gets into cracks in the limestone and it breaks down.

Elephant Rocks are the harder 'lumps' of limestone that have been left behind as all the softer limestone has been eroded and washed away... or maybe they are a treasure dropped by a giant...what do you think?

