



Parnallee Meteorite Fragment

Age approx. 4.5 billion years

Found in 1857 in India

The individual grains that make up this meteorite existed before the rock itself formed when they were sandwiched together. Some of them date back to the first couple of million years of solar system history. The rock itself probably formed within the first 10 million years, up to 150 million years before the Earth formed. This is probably the oldest object you will ever touch.

Parnallee is an unmelted stony meteorite, or chondrite. The cut faces show small, round objects called chondrules. These are solidified droplets of silicate minerals that were produced during the very earliest stages of the formation of the Solar System. Chondrites never became part of objects that were large enough to differentiate into a core and mantle.