

## *Elrathia kingii*

Location: Utah, USA

Rock Unit: Wheeler Shale

Stratigraphy: Cambrian

Buried early during Noah's Flood

# **Trilobite Fossil**

This genuine fossil is of the trilobite *Elrathia kingii* (el RAY thee ah king ee eye). Trilobites lived underwater, had a jointed exoskeleton, and compound eyes. "Trilobite" means "three lobes", referring to the two side (left/right) and one central section of the exoskeleton.

*E. kingii* is a member of the trilobite family Alokistocaridae (ah loh KIST oh KAR ih day), all of which were oval or egg-shaped. *E. kingii* usually has 13 body segments between the head shield and the pygidium (fused tail shield). Specimens range in size from 1/8 of an inch to over 2 inches, depending on how many times the animal molted its exoskeleton.