

**World's largest petrified park and museum**  
**Lemmon, S.D.**



FREE

Ever seen a gas station made of petrified wood? Or a museum made of petrified wood with a floor of fossilized grass? How about 100 conical shaped structures some 20 feet tall, made of petrified wood and concretions\* called “cannonballs”? How about a castle with turrets reaching 32 feet into the air, all made of petrified wood! This city park was created in the 1930’s, after the towns people collected petrified wood in a 25 mile radius and brought it all together.

**Petrified wood**

Evolution would want you to believe that it takes millions of years for wood to petrify or turn to stone. It doesn’t take a long time for wood to petrify. It takes the right chemical conditions for wood to become petrified. For example, a farmer’s fence posts below the ground dating from the mid-1800’s, were found totally petrified! The top portion had rotted away while those in the ground had petrified! A piece of wood was dangled in Yellowstone’s silica hot springs for a year and was found to be substantially petrified! Petrified wood can be found at the chapel of Santa Maria de Salute in Venice, Italy. This massive stone block chapel was built in 1630 to celebrate the end of the Plague. The city of Venice is built on water saturated sand and clay, so the chapel’s foundation was reinforced with 180,000 wooden pilings. How have these wooden pilings remained firm for some 400 years? They are petrified! The once wooden pilings have turned to stone! It does not take a long time to petrify, just the right conditions. Petrified wood is not as rare as you may think. In fact it is an abundant fossil and found worldwide. To make petrified wood, wood needs to be buried in oxygen-poor sediment. Water then percolates through the ground bringing with it minerals. Cell by cell, the original wood is completely dissolved away and replaced. The ideal environment for wood to become petrified is burial by volcanic ash. This provides the needed minerals and hot water for the wood to petrify. The color of the petrified wood depends on the minerals in the water. Arizona’s petrified wood is famous for its yellows and reds (from the iron minerals) and green and blues (from the copper). The petrified wood of the Dakotas are usually very light brown or cream colored.

The Flood of Noah’s day would have had the right conditions in order for wood to petrify; the trees had to be buried quickly before decomposing. Living trees that die and fall in the forest will decompose from fungus, bacteria, and other creatures. Flood waters would have percolated down into the soil extracting minerals and depositing them in the

wood. Petrified wood is abundant and worldwide, yet it rarely occurs today because of the special conditions required. What event in history would have worldwide deep burial of wood in a water saturated ground? The Flood of Noah's time provides the answer. So the next time you pick up a piece of petrified wood, realize you are holding a piece of evidence for a worldwide flood, the Flood of Noah's day.

- Ham, Ken, ed, 2010.*The New Answers Book 3*. Master Books: Green Forest, AR. p. 96.
- Morris, Dr. John. 2002. *The Geology Book*. Master Books: Green Forest, AR. p. 71.
- Snelling, Dr. Andrew. September 1995. "Instant Petrified Wood". *Creation Magazine*, p. 38-40.

### **\*Concretions**

When handed a concretion, I thought it looked like a perfectly round cannonball and I wanted to know who made it. I found out concretions are round rocks made of silt or clay sized particles that have cemented together to look like a cannonball. They are very common throughout the rock record and come in a variety of sizes with some concretions the size of boulders. They often erode out of sedimentary layers. Is there anything inside? Some concretions have organic material within, others have no organic material. Concretions are not being formed today. Giant red concretions almost 10 feet in diameter can also be found having weathered out of a side hill at Theodore Roosevelt national park- north unit.

So, how were they formed? Within the Flood framework, these concretions would have formed as they were rolled along in high energy forces resulting in rapid formation and burial.

Froede Jr. Carl R., 2007.*Geology by Design*. Master Books: Green Forest, AR. p.82-90.

### **Grand River Museum- FREE**

Lemmon, South Dakota

This is a creation museum with dozens of displays of dinosaurs and fossils found in the area. This museum is unique in that these are not plaster cast models but the real thing. This museum also features exhibits on the Native Americans and cowboys.