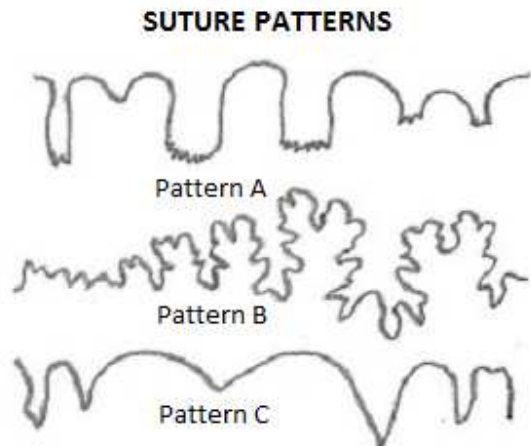


**Suture Patterns.** Your study of ammonites would not be complete without a brief exploration of sutures – the seams where internal partitions, called septa, intersect with the outside wall of its shell.



Saddles point upward; Lobes point downward.

Match each suture pattern in the chart to the left with its description below.

7. **Goniatite:** Lobes and saddles exhibiting a simple zigzag pattern characteristic of Paleozoic ammonoids.

8. **Ceratite:** An alternating rounded and saw-toothed pattern of saddles and lobes characteristic of Triassic ammonoids.

9. **Ammonite:** Highly elaborate patterns resembling the leaves of ferns characteristic of Jurassic and Cretaceous ammonoids extending all the way back to the Permian.



1



2



3

10. Suture patterns slowly but gradually evolved from simple to complex. Examine the suture patterns above and rank them from 1 through 3 according to complexity ... simplest to most complex.

11. Identify each suture pattern in the images above.

12. Identify and record the Geologic Time Period during which each ammonite lived.

13. Identify the suture pattern exhibited by the ammonite cast included at this station.

14. Identify the suture pattern of the extant ammonite specimen included in this lesson.

15. Planispiral-shaped nautiloids are similar in shape to ammonites. How might suture patterns help you determine whether a specimen is a nautiloid or an ammonite?