**Origins of Mt. Nebo**

This extraordinary big hill (elevation 1,383 feet) was named Mt. Nebo by early residents who compared it to the hill in Jericho mentioned in the Bible where Moses looked out and saw the Promised Land.

It is made up of dark clay and bentonite clay and was formed 80-85 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period when it was at the bottom of a huge inland sea. Very large marine reptiles like Mosasaur lived there and when they died their bodies fell to the bottom of the sea. Gradually they got covered by layers of silt.

Periodically during that time volcanoes in Montana would erupt and volcanic ash from them would fall into the sea forming layers of mud and clay. When the ancient sea eventually dried up a big “mountain” was left. Then about 10,000 years ago the glacier scraped away part of the top of the mountain to reveal the layers containing the fossils of the marine reptiles, turtles and fish etc. Miners discovered the fossils in the 1930’s when they began to mine the bentonite clay and a huge mosasaur fossil was removed and put into the local museum in Miami and it is still there today. In 1972 the Morden Museum started to collect and study the fossils in this area in a major way and they have an excellent collection on display.

We recommend a visit to one or both these museums so you can get an idea of what Mt. Nebo was like from 85 million years ago to the present.