



Neoproterozoic "snowball Earth" events (Stage 9) were characterized by alternating episodes of global glaciation and rapid deposition of cap carbonates with giant crystal fans of aragonite. This 100 m section from the Skeleton Coast of Namibia exposes glacial deposits (lower slopes) overlain by carbonates (cliff faces). PHOTO COURTESY OF P. HOFFMAN ([WWW.SNOWBALLEARTH.ORG](http://WWW.SNOWBALLEARTH.ORG))