

ANCIENT LIFE EVOLUTION

Chronological History of Earth's Eras

CENOZOIC ERA 66 MYA - PRESENT

Quaternary

Evolution of humans; repeated glaciations (Ice Ages).

Neogene

Rise of hominids; grasslands become widespread.

Paleogene

Diversification of mammals and birds following mass extinction.

MESOZOIC ERA 252 - 66 MYA

Cretaceous

First flowering plants; peak of dinosaurs; K-Pg mass extinction.

Jurassic

Dominance of dinosaurs; first known birds; Pangea breaks apart.

Triassic

First dinosaurs and mammals appear; recovery from "Great Dying."

PALEOZOIC ERA 541 - 252 MYA

Permian

Reptiles diversify; ends with largest mass extinction in history.

Carboniferous

Extensive coal forests; first reptiles; high oxygen levels.

Devonian

"Age of Fish"; first amphibians move onto land.

Cambrian

The "Cambrian Explosion"; rapid diversification of marine life.

Precambrian Eon (4,600 - 541 MYA) precedes this chart æ For Educational Use Only