

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF LIFE

A Chronological Reference of Biological Milestones

Precambrian Supereon

4.5 Gya

Formation of Earth

3.8 Gya

First evidence of single-celled life (Prokaryotes)

2.4 Gya

Great Oxidation Event; Cyanobacteria produce oxygen

1.8 Gya

Eukaryotic cells emerge (Complex organelles)

Paleozoic Era

541 Mya

Cambrian Explosion; rapid diversification of animal phyla

475 Mya

First land plants evolve from green algae

360 Mya

Rise of Tetrapods; vertebrates move onto land

252 Mya

Permian-Triassic Extinction (The Great Dying)

Mesozoic Era

230 Mya

Appearance of Dinosaurs and early Mammals

130 Mya

Evolution and spread of Flowering Plants (Angiosperms)

66 Mya

K-Pg Extinction; demise of non-avian dinosaurs

Cenozoic Era

55 Mya

Diversification of modern Mammal orders

6 Mya

Hominin lineage diverges from Chimpanzee lineage

300 Kya

Emergence of anatomically modern Homo sapiens

Gya: Billion years ago | Mya: Million years ago | Kya: Thousand years ago