

CHRONOLOGY OF EARTH & LIFE

4.6 BYA

Hadean Eon

Formation of Earth and the Moon. Initial cooling of the crust.

4.0 BYA

Archean Eon

Origin of Life. First prokaryotic cells (bacteria).

3.5 BYA: Appearance of Oxygen-producing cyanobacteria.

2.5 BYA

Proterozoic Eon

The Great Oxidation Event. Rise of eukaryotic cells.

600 MYA: Multicellular "Ediacaran" organisms appear.

541 MYA

Paleozoic Era

The Cambrian Explosion. Colonization of land by plants and tetrapods.

252 MYA: Permian Extinction (The Great Dying).

252 MYA

Mesozoic Era

Age of Reptiles. Rise and dominance of Dinosaurs. Evolution of birds.

66 MYA: K-Pg Extinction event (Asteroid impact).

66 MYA

Cenozoic Era

Age of Mammals. Radiation of modern flora and fauna.

200 KYA: Emergence of Homo sapiens.

PRESENT

Holocene Epoch

The current geological period. Development of human civilization.