

# FOSSIL RECORD EVOLUTION TIMELINE

**66 MYA - PRESENT**

## **Cenozoic Era**

Dominance of mammals, birds, and flowering plants. Evolution of hominids.

*Key Fossils: Australopithecus, Mammoth, Early Primates*

**252 - 66 MYA**

## **Mesozoic Era**

Age of Reptiles. Emergence of dinosaurs, small mammals, and birds.

*Key Fossils: Tyrannosaurus Rex, Archaeopteryx, Ammonites*

**541 - 252 MYA**

## **Paleozoic Era**

Cambrian explosion. Development of fish, amphibians, and early land plants.

*Key Fossils: Trilobites, Dimetrodon, Tiktaalik*

**4.6 BYA - 541 MYA**

## **Precambrian Supereon**

Formation of Earth. Origins of life, multicellular organisms, and photosynthesis.

*Key Fossils: Stromatolites, Dickinsonia (Ediacaran biota)*