

# GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

## Chronological History of Earth & Life

Eon

Era

Key Evolutionary Events

Start (mya)

Phanerozoic

Cenozoic

Rise of mammals, hominids, and modern birds. Grasslands expand.

66

Phanerozoic

Mesozoic

Age of Dinosaurs. First mammals and flowering plants appear.

252

Phanerozoic

Paleozoic

Cambrian explosion. Colonization of land by plants and amphibians.

541

Proterozoic

Neoproterozoic

First multicellular organisms. Oxygen levels rise significantly.

2,500

Archean

Eoarchean

Formation of Earth's crust. First single-celled life (prokaryotes).

4,000

Hadean

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Formation of Earth and Moon. Surface is molten.

4,600