

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY TIMELINE

4.5 Billion Years Ago

Formation of Earth

Earth forms from the solar nebula.

3.8 Billion Years Ago

First Life

Simple single-celled organisms (prokaryotes) appear.

2.4 Billion Years Ago

Great Oxidation Event

Cyanobacteria begin producing oxygen via photosynthesis.

1.5 Billion Years Ago

Eukaryotic Cells

Complex cells with nuclei and organelles evolve.

541 Million Years Ago

Cambrian Explosion

Rapid appearance of most major animal phyla.

375 Million Years Ago

Tiktaalik

The transition of vertebrates from water to land.

230 Million Years Ago

Age of Dinosaurs

The rise of the first dinosaurs during the Triassic.

66 Million Years Ago

K-Pg Extinction

Mass extinction of dinosaurs; rise of mammals.

300,000 Years Ago

Homo Sapiens

Emergence of anatomically modern humans in Africa.