

NATURAL HISTORY & EVOLUTION

Timeline of Earth's Major Biological Milestones

4.5 BILLION YEARS AGO

Formation of Earth

Earth forms from the solar nebula; Hadean Eon begins with intense volcanic activity.

3.5 BILLION YEARS AGO

Origin of Life

Earliest evidence of prokaryotic life (cyanobacteria) and stromatolite formation.

541 MILLION YEARS AGO

Cambrian Explosion

Rapid appearance of most major animal phyla and complex marine ecosystems.

230 MILLION YEARS AGO

Age of Dinosaurs

Emergence of dinosaurs during the Triassic period; Pangea begins to break apart.

66 MILLION YEARS AGO

K-Pg Extinction

Mass extinction event ending the Mesozoic Era; rise of mammals and birds.

300,000 YEARS AGO

Homo Sapiens

Anatomically modern humans emerge in Africa, eventually migrating globally.