

GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE

Reference Chart of International Chronostratigraphic Units

EON	ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	START (MYA)	KEY EVENTS
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene / Pleistocene	2.58	Evolution of modern humans; glaciations.
		Tertiary (Neo/Paleo)	Pliocene to Paleocene	66.0	Diversification of mammals and birds.
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Late / Early	145.0	First flowering plants; Dinosaur extinction at end.
		Jurassic	Late / Mid / Early	201.3	Dominance of dinosaurs; first birds.
		Triassic	Late / Mid / Early	251.9	First dinosaurs; Pangea begins to break.
	Paleozoic	Permian	-	298.9	Mass extinction; formation of Pangea.
		Cambrian	-	541.0	"Cambrian Explosion" of marine life.
	Proterozoic	Neoproterozoic	Ediacaran	-	1,000

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Archean	Neo/Meso/Paleo	-	-	4,000	Stabilization of continents; first bacteria.
Hadean	-	-	-	4,600	Formation of Earth and Moon.

MYA = Millions of Years Ago. Data based on ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart v2023. For academic reference only.