

# CHRONOLOGY OF EARTH'S HISTORY

Major Geologic Eons and Biological Milestones

## **4.6 - 4.0 BYA**

### **Hadean Eon**

Formation of Earth and Moon. Earth's surface begins cooling from a molten state.

## **4.0 - 2.5 BYA**

### **Archean Eon**

First single-celled organisms (Prokaryotes) appear. Significant atmospheric oxygen begins to accumulate.

## **2.5 BYA - 541 MYA**

### **Proterozoic Eon**

Rise of multicellular life. Evolution of Eukaryotes. The "Snowball Earth" glaciations occur.

## **541 - 252 MYA**

### **Paleozoic Era**

The Cambrian Explosion. Age of invertebrates, fish, and the first plants and animals to colonize land.

## **252 - 66 MYA**

### **Mesozoic Era**

The Age of Reptiles. Dominance of Dinosaurs. Evolution of birds and flowering plants.

## **66 MYA - Present**

### **Cenozoic Era**

The Age of Mammals. Rise of humans. Current planetary climate and continental arrangement.

### **Educational Notes:**

BYA: Billion Years Ago | MYA: Million Years Ago