

GEOLOGICAL STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN

Standard Chronostratigraphic Reference
Unit: Millions of Years Ago (Ma)

EON	ERA	PERIOD	START AGE	KEY BIOLOGICAL EVENTS
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	2.58	<i>Evolution of genus Homo; Glaciation cycles.</i>
		Mesozoic	Cretaceous	145.0
	Jurassic		201.3	<i>Dominance of dinosaurs; first birds.</i>
...	Paleozoic	Carboniferous	358.9	<i>Extensive coal forests; early reptiles.</i>
		Cambrian	541.0	<i>Cambrian explosion; rapid diversification.</i>
Proterozoic	Neoproterozoic	Ediacaran	635.0	<i>First multicellular soft-bodied organisms.</i>
Archean	Eoarchean to Nearchean		4000.0	<i>Stabilization of crust; first prokaryotes.</i>

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Hadean	Informal Time		~4600.0	<i>Formation of Earth and Moon.</i>