

GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE

Chronostratigraphic Chart Reference

EON	ERA	PERIOD	MYA	KEY BIOLOGICAL EVENTS
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	2.6 – 0	Evolution of genus Homo; Glaciation cycles.
		Neogene	23 – 2.6	Hominids appear; grassland expansion.
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	145 – 66	Flowering plants appear; K-Pg extinction.
		Jurassic	201 – 145	Dinosaurs dominant; first birds appear.
		Triassic	252 – 201	First dinosaurs and mammals; Pangea breaks.
	Paleozoic	Permian	299 – 252	Reptiles diversify; Great Dying extinction.
		Carboniferous	359 – 299	Extensive coal swamps; giant insects.

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		Devonian	419 – 359	Age of Fishes; first tetrapods and forests.
		Cambrian	541 – 485	Cambrian Explosion; first hard-shelled fauna.
Proterozoic	Neoproterozoic	Ediacaran	635 – 541	First multi-cellular soft-bodied organisms.
Archean	-	-	4000 – 2500	Origin of life (prokaryotes); Photosynthesis.
Hadean	-	-	4600 – 4000	Formation of Earth and Moon.