

# PHANEROZOIC EON TIMELINE

541 Million Years Ago to Present

<b>ERA</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>TIME (MYA)</b>	<b>KEY EVENTS</b>
<b>Cenozoic</b>	Quaternary	2.58 - 0	Evolution of humans; repeated glaciations.
	Neogene	23 - 2.58	Rise of hominids; mammals and birds evolve into modern forms.
	Paleogene	66 - 23	Mammals diversify following dinosaur extinction.
<b>Mesozoic</b>	Cretaceous	145 - 66	Peak of dinosaurs; first flowering plants; K-Pg extinction.
	Jurassic	201 - 145	Dominance of dinosaurs; first birds; Pangea breaks up.
	Triassic	252 - 201	First dinosaurs and mammals; recovery from Permian extinction.
<b>Paleozoic</b>	Permian	299 - 252	Formation of Pangea; "The Great Dying" mass extinction.
	Carboniferous	359 - 299	Great coal swamps; first reptiles; high oxygen levels.
	Devonian	419 - 359	"Age of Fish"; first amphibians and forests.

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	Silurian	444 - 419	First vascular plants; diversification of jawed fish.
	Ordovician	485 - 444	Diverse marine invertebrates; colonization of land starts.
	Cambrian	541 - 485	Cambrian Explosion; rapid appearance of major animal phyla.