

GEOLOGICAL TIMELINE OF EARTH

From the formation of Earth to the present day

Era

Period

Key Biological Events

Cenozoic

Quaternary

Evolution of humans; repeated glaciations (Ice Ages).

Tertiary

Diversification of mammals, birds, and flowering plants.

Mesozoic

Cretaceous

Mass extinction of dinosaurs; first flowering plants appear.

Jurassic

Dominance of dinosaurs; first birds appear.

Triassic

First dinosaurs and mammals emerge.

Paleozoic

Permian

Formation of Pangea; largest mass extinction in history.

Carboniferous

Vast coal swamps; first reptiles; giant insects.

Devonian

"Age of Fish"; first amphibians and land forests.

Cambrian

"Cambrian Explosion" of diverse marine life forms.

Precambrian

Proterozoic

Oxygen builds up in atmosphere; first multi-cellular life.

Archean

Earth's crust cools; first single-celled organisms (bacteria).

Hadean

Formation of the Earth and Moon.