

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

Reference Chart / Ma = Million years ago

EON	ERA	PERIOD	START (MA)	KEY EVENTS
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	<i>Quaternary</i>	2.58	Evolution of humans; repeated glaciations.
		<i>Neogene</i>	23.0	Hominids appear; grasslands expand.
		<i>Paleogene</i>	66.0	Mammals and birds diversify.
	Mesozoic	<i>Cretaceous</i>	145.0	K-Pg extinction; flowering plants appear.
		<i>Jurassic</i>	201.3	Dinosaurs dominant; first birds.
		<i>Triassic</i>	251.9	Pangea begins to break; first dinosaurs.
	Paleozoic	<i>Permian</i>	298.9	Great Dying (Mass Extinction).
		<i>Devonian</i>	419.2	Age of Fish; first tetrapods and forests.
		<i>Cambrian</i>	541.0	Cambrian Explosion; first hard-shelled life.
Proterozoic	--	--	2500	Oxygenation of atmosphere; eukaryotic life.
Archean	--	--	4000	Earliest life (bacteria/archaea); first continents.

EON	ERA	PERIOD	START (MA)	KEY EVENTS
Hadean	--	--	4600	Formation of Earth and Moon.