

Geologic Time Scale

Era	Period	Began (million years ago)	Ended (million years ago)	Major Events (million years ago)
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.6	Present	Major Glaciers in North America and Europe (1.5)
	Tertiary	65	1.6	Rocky Mts. (65) Individual Continents Take Shape
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	146	65	Dinosaurs Extinct (65) Western Interior Seaway and Marine Reptiles (144-65)
	Jurassic	208	146	Pangaea (One Land Mass) Begins to Break Up (200)
	Triassic	245	20	First Mammals and Dinosaurs
Paleozoic	Permian	290	245	Greatest Extinction on Earth (245)
	Pennsylvanian	322	290	First Reptiles
	Mississippian	362	322	Coal-Forming Forests
	Devonian	408	362	First Land Animals and First Forests (408)
	Silurian	439	408	Life Invades Land
	Ordovician	510	439	First fish
	Cambrian	545	510	Great Diversity of Marine Invertebrates
Precambrian	Proterozoic	2,500	545	Marine Fossil Invertebrates (600)
	Archean	4,600	2,500	Earliest Fossils Recorded (3,500) Earliest Rocks (4,000)