

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

Time Units of the Geologic Time Scale				Development of Plants and Animals		
Eon	Era	Period	Epoch			
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	Earliest <i>Homo sapiens</i> Earliest hominids “Age of Mammals” Extinction of dinosaurs and many other species		
			Pleistocene			
		Tertiary	Pliocene			
			Miocene			
			Oligocene			
			Eocene			
			Palaeocene			
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	“Age of Reptiles”	First flowering plants First birds Dinosaurs dominant First mammals		
		Jurassic				
		Triassic				
	Palaeozoic	Carboniferous	Permian	Extinction of trilobites and many other marine animals First reptiles Large coal swamps Amphibians abundant		
			Pennsylvanian			
					Mississippian	
		Devonian	“Age of Fishes”		First amphibians First insect fossils Fishes dominant	
						Silurian
						Ordovician
						Cambrian
Vendian						
Proterozoic	Archean	Hadean	First multicelled organisms First one-celled organisms Age of oldest rocks Origin of the earth			
				2500		
				3800		
	4600 Ma		Collectively called Precambrian comprises about 87% of the geological time scale			