

Earth's History & Geological Time

Eon	Era	Period (millions of years ago)	Significant Events

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Phanerozoic	Paleozoic (541 - 252 m.y.a)	Cambrian (541 - 485)	animals with hard shells in ocean
		Ordovician (485 - 443)	complex animals (i.e. trilobites) common in oceans
		Silurian (443 - 419)	short plants, fungi and small animals abundant on land
		Devonian (419 - 358)	short plants, fungi and small animals abundant on land
		Carboniferous (358 - 298)	insects abundant on land, and vertebrates appear on land
		Permian (298 - 252)	supercontinent with vast deserts. catastrophe that kills 96% of all life
	Mesozoic (252 - 66 m.y.a)	Triassic (252 - 201)	first dinosaurs and airborne pterosaurs appear
		Jurassic (201 - 145)	first dinosaurs and airborne pterosaurs appear
		Cretaceous (145 - 66)	plant eating dinosaurs present, prey for meat-eating dinosaurs. dinos wiped out 66 mya.
	Cenozoic (66 - 0 m.y.a)	Paleogene (66 - 23)	smaller mammals evolve into bigger forms, become dominant land forms
		Neogene (23 - 2)	birds, mammals, reptiles, others evolve to modern animals. upright ancestors to humans.
		Quaternary (2 - present)	climate cooled, series of ice ages. first true humans evolve in Africa.

Name _____ Date _____

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According to scientists, the age of the Earth is

-----.

We are currently in the ----- Period.

Life began on Earth approximately ----- ago.

The Phanerozoic Eon is marked by the appearance of

-----, ----- life.

In the Pre-Cambrian Period, life was ----- and

-----.

4.5 BILLION YEARS QUATERNARY 3.8 BILLION YEARS

COMPLEX MULTICELLULAR MICROSCOPIC SINGLE-CELLED

Phanerozoic comes from the Greek words phaneros (visible) and zoion (animal) and means "visible life"

Name ----- Date -----

Earth's History & Geological Time

According to scientists, the age of the Earth is

4.5 billion years

-----.

We are currently in the _____ Quaternary _____ Period.

Life began on Earth approximately _____ 3.8 billion years _____ ago.

The Phanerozoic Eon is marked by the appearance of
_____, _____ complex, _____ multicellular _____ life.

In the Pre-Cambrian Period, life was _____ single-celled _____ and
_____ microscopic _____.

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