

Geologic Timeline

Time (Years Ago)				
4.6 billion years		Formation of the Earth by accretion of stellar dust and gases		
4 billion years		Bombardment of the Earth by planetesimals stops		
3.8 billion years		The Earth's crust solidifies--formation of the oldest rocks		
3.8 billion years		Condensation of atmospheric water into oceans		
375 million years		The Appalachian mountains are formed in a tectonic collision between North America, Africa, and Europe		
200 million years		Pangaea breaks apart		
65 million years		K-T Boundary--extinction of the dinosaurs and beginning of the reign of mammals		
		Time (Years ago)		
Era/Period/Epoch				
Archean Era		4.6 -1.5 billion years		
Pre-cambrian Era		1.5 billion years – 545 million years		
Paleozoic Era	Cambrian Period	545 – 505 million years		
	Ordovician Period	505 – 438 million years		
	Silurian Period	438 – 410 million years		
	Devonian Period	410 – 355 million years		
	Carboniferous (Mississippian/Pennsylvanian) Period	355 – 290 million years		
Mesozoic Era	Permian Period	290 – 250 million years		
	Triassic Period	250 – 205 million years		
	Jurassic Period	205 – 135 million years		
	Cretaceous Period	135 – 65 million years		
Cenozoic Era	Tertiary Period	Paleocene Epoch	65 – 55 million years	
		Eocene Epoch	55 – 38 million years	
		Oligocene Epoch	38 – 26 million years	
		Miocene Epoch	26 – 6 million years	
	Quarternary Period	Pliocene Epoch	6.0 – 1.8 million years	
		Pleistocene Epoch (Lower Paleolithic)	1.8 – 1 million years	
		(Middle Paleolithic)	500,000 years – 250,000 years	
		(Upper Paleolithic)	250,000 years – 60,000 years	
		Holocene Epoch	60,000 years – 10,000 years	
		10,000 years – present		