

Timeline for Core Geology 1556 - Present

- 1556 - Agricola publishes *De re Metallica*, which becomes the standard mining and assaying text for the next 250 years
- 1620 - Francis Bacon notices the jigsaw fit of the opposite shores of the Atlantic Ocean
- 1669 - Nicolas Steno expresses his three laws of geology
- 1701 - Edmund Halley suggests using the salinity and evaporation of the Mediterranean to determine the age of the Earth
- 1743 - Dr Christopher Packe produces a geological map of south-east England
- 1746 - Jean-Étienne Guettard presents the first mineralogical map of France to the French Academy of Sciences.
- 1760 - John Michell suggests earthquakes are caused by one layer of rocks rubbing against another
- 1776 - James Keir suggests that some rocks might have been formed by the crystallisation of molten lava
- 1779 - Comte de Buffon speculates that the Earth is older than the 6,000 years suggested by the Bible
- 1809 - William Maclure conducts the first geological survey of the eastern United States
- 1830 - Sir Charles Lyell publishes *Principles of Geology*, which describes the world as being several hundred million years old
- 1837 - Louis Agassiz begins his glaciation studies which eventually demonstrate that the Earth has had at least one ice age
- 1862 - Lord Kelvin attempts to find the age of the Earth by examining its cooling time and estimates that the Earth is between 20 - 400 million years old
- 1903 - George Darwin and John Joly claim that radioactivity is partially responsible for the Earth's heat
- 1907 - Bertram Boltwood proposes that the amount of lead in uranium and thorium ores might be used to determine the Earth's age and crudely dates some rocks to have ages between 410 million and 2.2 billion years
- 1911 - Arthur Holmes uses radioactivity to date rocks, the oldest being 1.6 billion years old
- 1912 - Alfred Wegener proposes continental drift theory - that all the continents once formed a single landmass called Pangaea that broke apart via continental drift
- 1935 - Charles Richter invents a scale to measure the intensity of earthquakes
- 1953 - Maurice Ewing and Bruce Heezen discover the Great Global Rift running along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
- 1960 - Harry Hess proposes that new sea floor might be created at mid-ocean rifts and destroyed at deep sea trenches
- 1963 - F.J. Vine and D.H. Matthews explain the stripes of magnetized rocks with alternating magnetic polarities running parallel to mid- ocean ridges as due to sea floor spreading and the periodic geomagnetic field reversals
- 1980 - Physicist Luis Alvarez, his son, geologist Walter Alvarez, and others propose that the impact of a large extra-terrestrial object caused the extinction of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous Period, about 65 million years ago