

Outline of the Earth's History

Period or epoch — its length	Beginning (yrs.)	Development of life on Earth
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10 thousand	Human beings	hunted and tamed animals; developed agriculture; learned to use metals, coal, oil, gas, and other resources; put the power of wind and rivers to work.
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2 million	Modern human	beings developed. Mammoths, wooly rhinos, and other animals flourished but died out near the end of the epoch.
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5 million	Sea life became	much like today's. Birds and many mammals became like modern kinds and spread around the world. Human beings appeared.
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24 million	Apes appeared in	Asia and Africa. Other animals included bats, monkeys, and whales, and primitive bears and raccoons. Flowering plants and trees resembled modern kinds.
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37 million	Primitive apes	appeared. Camels, cats, dogs, elephants, horses, rhinos, and rodents developed. Huge rhinoceros-like animals disappeared near the end of the epoch.
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58 million	Birds, amphibians,	small reptiles, and fish were plentiful. Primitive bats, camels, cats, horses, monekys, rhinoceroses, and whales appeared.
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66 million	Flowering plants	became plentiful. Invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals were common.
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144 million	Flowering plants	appeared. Invertebrates, fish, and amphibians were plentiful. Dinosaurs with horns and armor became common. Dinosaurs died out at end of period.
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208 million yrs.	Cone-bearing trees	were plentiful. Sea life included shelled squid. Dinosaurs reached their largest size. The first birds appeared. Mammals were small and primitive.
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245 million yrs.	Cone-bearing trees	were plentiful. Many fish resembled modern kinds. Insects were plentiful. Turtles, crocodiles, and dinosaurs appeared, as did the first mammals.
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