

Standard Geologic Relative Time Scale

Time Scale (begins yrs BP)	Eras	Periods	Epochs	Fossil Record - Appearance of New Life Forms
10 thousand	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent	No new basic forms
2 million			Pleistocene	Most modern families, genera, species present, first humans
12 million		Tertiary	Pliocene	All carnivores, many types of horses and browsing animals
26 million			Miocene	First mastodons, giant ground sloths, primitive dogs, horses, antelopes
36 million			Oligocene	First true carnivores, first cats (saber-toothed), first apes
54 million			Eocene	First rodents, first rhinoceroses, first monkeys
65 million			Paleocene	First hoofed mammals, first flesh-eating mammals, first lemuroids
135 million	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Last dinosaurs, last toothed birds, first modern birds	
180 million		Jurassic	First flowering plants, giant dinosaurs, first birds, first mammals	
225 million		Triassic	Last seed ferns, first dinosaurs	