












# GEOLOGICAL TIMESCALE

PERIOD	YEARS AGO	LIFE FORMS ORIGINATING
QUATERNARY	0 2,590,000	Human Beings 
TERTIARY (Paleogene-Neogene)	2,590,000 66,000,000	Grazing and carnivorous mammals 
CRETACEOUS	66,000,000 145,000,000	Last dinosaurs, first flowering plants 
JURASSIC	145,000,000 201,000,000	First birds 
TRIASSIC	201,000,000 252,000,000	First dinosaurs and mammals 
PERMIAN	252,000,000 299,000,000	Mammal-like reptiles, last trilobites 
CARBONIFEROUS	299,000,000 359,000,000	First reptiles; fern forests 
DEVONIAN	359,000,000 419,000,000	First amphibians and insects 
SILURIAN	419,000,000 444,000,000	Vascular land plants 
ORDOVICIAN	444,000,000 485,000,000	First corals, fish with vertebrae 
CAMBRIAN	485,000,000 541,000,000	Shellfish, trilobites 
PRECAMBRIAN	541,000,000 700,000,000 1,500,000,000 3,500,000,000 4,560,000,000	Algae Complex cells Primitive cells Formation of the Earth 