

Era	Period	Time (millions of years ago)	Key Events
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.8–present	Glaciations; mammals increased; humans
	Tertiary	65–1.8	Mammals diversified; grasses
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	145–65	Aquatic reptiles diversified; flowering plants; mass extinction
	Jurassic	208–145	Dinosaurs diversified, birds
	Triassic	245–208	Dinosaurs; small mammals; cone-bearing plants
Paleozoic	Permian	290–245	Reptiles diversified; seed plants; mass extinction
	Carboniferous	363–290	Reptiles; winged insects diversified; coal swamps
	Devonian	410–363	Fishes diversified; land vertebrates (primitive amphibians)
	Silurian	440–410	Land plants; land animals (arthropods)
	Ordovician	505–440	Aquatic arthropods; mollusks; vertebrates (jawless fishes)
	Cambrian	544–505	Marine invertebrates diversified; most animal phyla evolved
Precambrian Time		650–544	Anaerobic, then photosynthetic prokaryotes; eukaryotes, then multicellular life