



The Geologic Time Scale is a chronological model that uses the stratigraphy of the earth, or the layers of rock, in relation to time. It is a model studied by earth scientists, such as geologists and paleontologists to study the events that occurred in our earth's history. The scale is read from the most recent events at the top, to the oldest events at the bottom. The scale is further broken down into time periods which are explained below.

Eon:

Two or more eras compose an Eon. This is the largest division of time, lasting hundreds of millions of years.

Era:

Two or more periods compose on Era. One Era is hundreds of millions of years in duration.

Period:

This is the basic unit of geologic time. A Period lasts tens of millions of years, which is the time it takes to form one type of rock system.

Epoch:

This is the smallest unit of geologic time. An Epoch lasts several million years.

Age:

This is a measurement of time which describes an event, such as an Ice Age.

EON	ERA	PERIOD		EPOCH	MYA
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary		Holocene	0.01 - 0
				Pleistocene	1.8 - 0.01
		Tertiary		Pliocene	5.3 - 1.8
				Miocene	23.8 - 5.3
				Oligocene	33.7 - 23.8
				Eocene	54.8 - 33.7
				Paleocene	65 - 54.8
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous			144 - 65
		Jurassic			206 - 144
		Triassic			248 - 206
	Paleozoic	Permian			290 - 248
		Pennsylvanian	Carboniferous		323 - 290
		Mississippian			354 - 323
		Devonian			417 - 354
		Silurian			443 - 417
		Ordovician			490 - 443
		Cambrian			543 - 490
	(Proterozoic)				2500 - 543
	(Archean)	Precambrian			4000 - 2500
	(Hadean)				4600 - 4000