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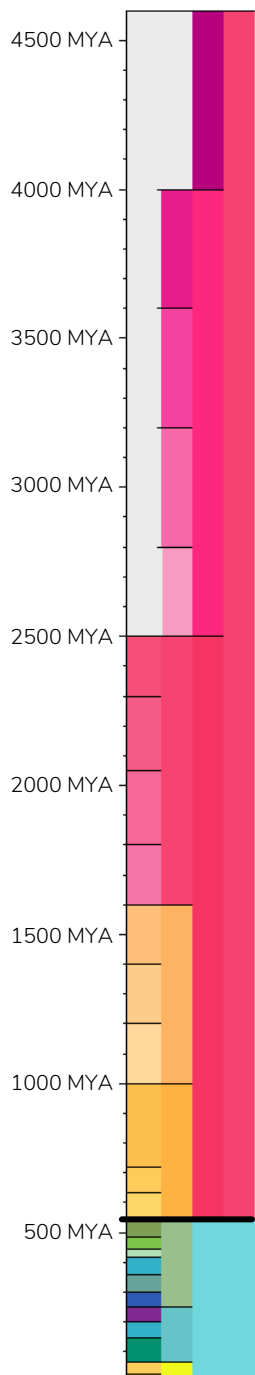
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*hunterswoodsph*

## GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE



Cambrian Period


Cenozoic Era


Hadean Eon


Mesozoic Era


Paleozoic Era


Precambrian


The  is the time span from the formation of the Earth around 4.6 billion years ago to the beginning of the Cambrian period.

The  is named after the Greek god of the underworld because of the hellish conditions on Earth at that time -- our planet had just been formed, was still very hot, and frequently collided with other solar system bodies.

The  marked a profound change in life on Earth. Prior to it, most living organisms were small, simple, and unicellular.

The  was when complex life forms evolved and took their first breath of oxygen on dry land. It features the rise of fish, amphibians and reptiles.

The  is also known as "the age of the dinosaurs" because it features the rise of reptiles and their conquest of the Earth's land, seas, and air.

The  features the rise of mammals -- and more recently, humans in particular -- as the dominant class of animals on earth.