

ERA	PERIOD	Millions of years ago	EPOCH	Millions of years ago
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.8	Holocene	0.01 ↗
	Tertiary		Pleistocene	1.8
Mesozoic		65		
	Cretaceous			
		142		
	Jurassic			
		205		
	Triassic			
		250		
Paleozoic	Permian			
		290		
	Pennsylvanian			
		325		
	Mississippian			
		355		
	Devonian			
		415		
Silurian				
	445			
Ordovician				
	495			
Cambrian				
	570			
Precambrian	Proterozoic			
		2500		
	Archean			
		>4000		

Table 1. Simplified Geological Time Scale. Ages in years are obtained from radiometric dates. The Holocene Epoch extends from 10,000 years ago to the present. In some scales the Pennsylvanian and Mississippian are combined within a Carboniferous Period. Eras and Periods are not established in the Precambrian.