

Topic 2: Changes in Life Over Time; Main events in history of life as observed from fossil record.

Faunal succession led to the creation of the Geologic Timescale, which shows spans of time whose separations are determined by dramatic changes of fossil records between rock layers.

Era		Period			
Era of recent life, densely populated with mammal fossils, including those of mammoths.	Cenozoic	Quaternary	mammoths, hominids	2.6 Ma	Boundary marks extinction of the dinosaurs.
		Neogene	corals, snail relatives	2.3 Ma	
		Paleogene	flightless birds, insects	66 Ma	
Era of middle life in which dinosaurs were dominant.	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Tyrannosaurus rex	145 Ma	Boundary marks the Great Dying, killing off many species of marine and some land animals.
		Jurassic	Allosaurus	201 Ma	
		Triassic	Pterosaurs	252 Ma	
Era of ancient life whose rock layers contain many hard-shelled marine animals like trilobites as well as some fish.	Paleozoic	Permian	Cicadas, beetles	299 Ma	
		Pennsylvanian	Trilobites, snails	323 Ma	
		Mississippian	Horn corals	359 Ma	
		Devonian	Trilobites, armored fish	419 Ma	
		Silurian	Trilobites, crinoids	443 Ma	
		Ordovician	Trilobites, stromatolites	485 Ma	
		Cambrian	Trilobites	541 Ma	
The era comprising about 90% of geologic time contains fossil evidence of bacteria and algae, which produced stromatolites.	Precambrian	Stromatolites		~4500 Ma	