Geologic History

How do we measure the history of the Earth?

Did humans have dinosaurs as pets, like the Flintstones?

NO

Dinosaurs lived during the Mesozoic Era, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous Periods [251 mya to 65 mya].

Humans live during the Cenozoic, Quaternary Period [1.6 mya to present].

We study the fossil record to learn about Earth's History.

Fossils are only found in Sedimentary Rocks.

Precambrian: Oldest on bottom, youngest on top.
- Began 4.6 billion years ago = Earth + Solar System Formed
- Ends 550 million years ago
- Largest chunk of time ~ 4 billion years
- Very little information for this time
- Earliest life forms were soft, single celled.
- Oxygen is being produced by cyanobacteria + stromatolites.

Phanerzoic: Divided into 3 major Era's:
Based on fossil evidence & mass extinctions.

Pink = Paleozoic - Trilobites appear, life with shelly parts appear, then go extinct.
Orange = Mesozoic - Dinosaurs appear, then go extinct
Yellow = Cenozoic - Mammals, humans.