

Geologic History

ESRT p. 8+9

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 [1.8 mya to present]

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

Fossil are only found in Sedimentary Rocks.

green

= 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.

Phanerozoic: 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.