

## Geologic Time Scale Key

(ANSWERS IN CAPS)

\*MYA means millions of years ago

Era	Period	Epoch	MYA*	Plant and Animal Development	
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	0.01	First written language, Beginning of human history	
		Pleistocene	1.6	Modern humans, Many extinctions	
	Tertiary	Pliocene	5	First hominids <b>MODERN WHITE SHARK</b>	
		Miocene	23	Rodents, grasses, kelp	
		Oligocene	35	Modern mammal families	
		Eocene	57	First whales	
		Paleocene	65	<b>EARLIEST WHITE SHARK</b>	
				Carnivorous mammals, monotremes	
	<b>Cretaceous–Paleogene Extinction</b>				
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145	Many extinctions, including dinosaurs and sea reptiles, first flowering plants
Jurassic			208	<b>RISE OF MODERN SHARKS</b>	
				First rays, first birds, dinosaur diversity/dominance	
<b>Triassic–Jurassic Extinction</b>					
Triassic			245	First dinosaurs and mammals	
<b>Permian–Triassic Extinction</b>					
Paleozoic	Permian		290	<b>ORIGIN OF MODERN SHARKS</b>	
				First mammal-like reptiles	
	Carboniferous		360	<b>ANCIENT SHARKS</b>	
				First tetrapods, large coal swamps	
	<b>Late Devonian Extinction</b>				
	Devonian		408	<b>EARLIEST SHARKS</b>	
				First insects	
	Silurian		440	Fish dominant, first land plants	
<b>Ordovician–Silurian Extinction</b>					
Ordovician		510	First fishes with jaws, first fishes with cranium		
Cambrian		570	Oldest bone fragments, first organisms with shells		
Precambrian			4650	First one-celled and multicelled organisms, oldest life on earth, origin of Earth	

Source: Martin, R. A. (2003)

A project of CA NGSS K-8 Early Implementation Initiative.



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