

ERA	PERIOD	Million years ago	EVENT		
CAINOZOIC	Quaternary	1.78	First humans, lice and Zoraptera	AGE OF MAMMALS	AGE OF INSECTS
	Tertiary Neogene Palaeogene	25 65	Mammals dominate. First praying mantids.		
MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	141	Dinosaurs become extinct. First flowering plants, insect pollinators, advanced spiders, termites and fleas.	AGE OF DINOSAURS	
	Jurassic	205	First flying birds. First web-building spiders, earwigs, butterflies and moths.		
	Triassic	251	First dinosaurs. Reptiles dominate. First dragonflies, stick insects, wasps and caddisflies.		
PALAEOZOIC	Permian	298	First beetles, flies, true bugs, booklice, thrips, stoneflies, webspinners and lacewings. Largest known insects and spiders.	AGE OF AMPHIBIANS	
	Carboniferous	354	First winged insects, spiders, scorpions, silverfish, mayflies, grasshoppers, and cockroaches.		
	Devonian	410	Oldest insect fossils. First springtails and bristletails.	AGE OF FISHES	
	Silurian	434	First bugs (water scorpions) invade the land.		
	Ordovician	490	Greatest diversity of trilobites.		
	Cambrian	545	Origin of most major animal groups. Development of hard shells.		
PRECAMBRIAN		640 3 600 4 600	Earliest multicellular fossils. Oldest recorded life on Earth. Formation of the Earth.		