

point

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	EVENTS IN FOSSIL RECORD	N.Z. ROCKS	
CENOZOIC	Quaternary	PLEISTOCENE	First Hominidae	(See Fig. 5)	geosynclines
		PLIOCENE			
	Tertiary	MIOCENE	First seals, Simiidae, Argonauts		
		OLIGOCENE	First Compositae, Lepidoptera		
		EOCENE	First grasses, whales		
PALEOCENE	First penguin (N.Z.), bats				
MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	UPPER	Last ammonites, First Scythiolaridae First neognathous birds, marsupials	Mata Series Ruakumara Series	"Neocenozoic"
		MIDDLE		Clarence Series	
		LOWER	First Angiosperms, snakes, modern birds (Neornithes)	Taitai Series (grp)	
	Jurassic	UPPER	First birds, frogs (Amphicoelia)	Kowhia Series	Geosyncline
		MIDDLE	First diatoms	Merangi Series	
		LOWER	First Coccidichophoridae, Diptera, Brachyura		
	Triassic	UPPER	First mammals	Balfour Series	
		MIDDLE	First Scleractinian corals	Gore Series	
		LOWER	First Rhynchocephalia (Sphenodontidae)		
	Permian	UPPER	Last trilobites, First Coleoptera	Waipapa Group	New Zealand
MIDDLE			Maitai & Te Anau Groups		
LOWER		First reptiles, Odonata			
PALEOZOIC	Carboniferous		Last graptolites, First conifers, flying insects (including Blattoidea)	Haast Schists	plateau
				(grp)	
Devonian	UPPER	First amphibians	Reefton & Baton River	plateau	
	MIDDLE				
	LOWER	First ammonoids, sharks, bony fish			
Silurian		First jawed fish (Placoderms), land plants	(not known)	plateau	
Ordovician	UPPER		Mc Arthur Group (N.W. Nelson)		
	MIDDLE	First crinoids, Jawless fish (Agnatha)	Aorere Gp. Preservation Series (Fiordland)		
	LOWER	First Foraminifera, corals			
Cambrian	UPPER	First cephalopods (Nautiloid), graptolites	Hauptiri Group (in part)	geosynclinal	
	MIDDLE				
	LOWER	First siliceous sponges, jellyfish, echinoderms, worm trails, brachiopods, gastropods, arthropods (trilobites)			
?	Precambrian		First fossil evidence of life	Greenland & Waitutu Groups	Early