

TABLE I. The Geologic Time Scale

ERAS	PERIODS	DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE
CENOZOIC	QUATERNARY	Appearance of man Widespread continental glaciation
	TERTIARY	Rise of modern mammals and birds (Began 70 million years ago.)
MESOZOIC	CRETACEOUS	Extinction of dinosaurs and many other reptile groups
	JURASSIC	Domination by giant reptiles Beginning of birds and mammals
	TRIASSIC	Beginning of dominance of reptiles (Began 200 million years ago.)
PALEOZOIC	PERMIAN	Extinction of many invertebrate groups and primitive type plants
	PENNSYLVANIAN	Many coal forests of spore bearing plants First reptiles
	MISSISSIPPIAN	Abundant spore bearing plants Many insects
	DEVONIAN	First amphibians Numerous marine fishes
	SILURIAN	First land plants First land animals (scorpions)
	ORDOVICIAN	First indication of vertebrates (fishes)
	CAMBRIAN	Invertebrates numerous and varied, trilobites dominant (Began 500 million years ago.)
PRECAMBRIAN TIME		Bacteria, algae, and a few primitive invertebrates (Began 4-5 billion years ago.)