

Table 7.4. Events in Earth's geological and evolutionary history

Event	Date (mya)	Description
formation of solar system	4600	
	4500	a rocky planet forms from colliding space dust and particles
first evidence of life on Earth	3800	
first photosynthetic organisms	3000	
beginning of Great Oxygenation Event	2500	
first eukaryotic organisms	2100	
	542	period of rapid evolution of new groups of multicellular organisms starts
beginning of Paleozoic era	540	"Age of Ancient Life" begins
first land plants	450	
first land animals	430	
formation of supercontinent Pangaea	300	
Permian-Triassic extinction	252	
beginning of Mesozoic era	252	
separation of supercontinent Pangaea	100	
earliest <i>Tyrannosaurus rex</i> fossil	67	
Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction		mass extinction of dinosaurs and other large reptile groups begins
	66	"Age of Mammals" begins
earliest fossils of modern <i>Homo sapiens</i>	0.2	
extinction of woolly mammoth	0.01	
Great Pyramid of Giza built in Egypt	0.004574	
your birthday		you are born