

B. Elements of Paleontology

THE ELEMENTS OF PALAEOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

GROUP OR ERA	AGE OF BASE (m.b.)	SYSTEM OR PERIOD	EPOCH Recent and Pleistocene	RANGE IN TIME OF MAJOR TYPES OF LIFE			
				INVERTEBRATES	VERTEBRATES	ALGAE	LAND PLANTS
CAINOZOIC	5.5	TERTIARY	Pliocene				
	22.5		Miocene				
	36		Oligocene				
	53.5		Eocene				
	65		Palaeocene				
MESOZOIC	135	CRETACEOUS					
	191-205	JURASSIC					
	235-245	TRIASSIC					
	275-290	PERMIAN					
UPPER PALAEOZOIC	360-380	CARBONIFEROUS					
	405-430	DEVONIAN (Old Red Sandstone)					
	435-460	SILURIAN					
LOWER PALAEOZOIC	500-530	ORDOVICIAN					
	570-610	CAMBRIAN					
PROTEROZOIC	23000	PRECAMBRIAN (not to scale)					
AOZOIC crust formed	4600 million years						

Geological time scale.

The scale used for the Cainozoic is increased to include more detail. Where a range of age is given this reflects uncertainty about the precise age of that horizon.