

## Events in geological time

- ↑ 4.6 billion
- 1 **4,600 million years ago**  
Earth forms between 4.5/4.6 billion years ago.
  - 2 **3,950 million years ago**  
World's oldest rocks form when molten lava rises from cracks in the sea floor.
  - 3 **2,500 million years ago**  
Breathable air starts to be created by microbes living in the sea.
  - 4 **545 million years ago**  
Hard shelled molluscs start to appear.
  - 5 **530 million years ago**  
Earliest vertebrates start to appear.
  - 6 **450 million years ago**  
Earliest cartilaginous fish evolve.
  - 7 **435 million years ago**  
Arachnids like spiders and scorpions evolve.
  - 8 **430 million years ago**  
Plants take root on land.
  - 9 **370 million years ago**  
Amphibians emerge from the water.
  - 10 **360 million years ago**  
The single supercontinent of Pangaea comes together.
  - 11 **335 million years ago**  
Coal forming swamp forests flourish.
  - 12 **300 million years ago**  
Earliest reptiles appear.
  - 13 **275 million years ago**  
Reptiles take over Pangaea.
  - 14 **248 million years ago**  
Planet suffers largest extinction ever.
  - 15 **240 million years ago**  
Dinosaurs take their first steps.
  - 16 **225 million years ago**  
Supercontinent Pangaea breaks up.
  - 17 **210 million years ago**  
Small, furry animals appear.
  - 18 **200 million years ago**  
Dinosaurs dominate the Earth.
  - 19 **150 million years ago**  
Birds become airborne.
  - 20 **125 million years ago**  
Flowering plants begin to bloom.
  - 21 **65 million years ago**  
Dinosaurs become extinct.
  - 22 **60 million years ago**  
Mammals diversify and replace dinosaurs.
  - 23 **55 million years ago**  
Primates appear in the trees.
  - 24 **5.8 million years ago**  
Hominins descend from the trees.
  - 25 **1.8 million years ago**  
Ice ages begin to grip the world.
  - 26 **190 thousand years ago**  
Modern humans are born.