

This infographic depicts the history of the Earth and the life that developed upon it. The Earth has been around for nearly 4.6 billion years and much has happened in that immense span of time, from global glaciations to massive asteroid impacts. Scientists have learned about the long, complex history of the planet by studying layers of rock in the Earth's crust. These layers contain fossils of plants and animals that lived on Earth, only a tiny fraction of which still exist today. By examining the composition of rocks and the types of fossils in them, scientists have created a timeline of Earth's history. It is broken up into sections based on major events, like global climate changes and mass extinctions. Use this infographic to explore the evolution of Earth and the life upon it.

Anthropocene: Age of Man

We live in the Holocene epoch, but many scientists argue that human impacts, like climate change and increased extinction rates, place us in a new epoch: the Anthropocene.



■ Extinct

★ Mass Extinction event

