

## Class work: Topic 7 - Geologic Time Scale

As you know geologic time is broken into 3 Eons and the Phanerozoic Eon (most recent) is broken into 3 Eras, which are each broken into several Periods. Earth has changed drastically over its 4.6 billion year existence and scientists have used these major changes as markers for the geologic time scale. Almost all of our information about the past was "recorded" in rocks. Soon you will be able to "read" the story that rocks tell as geologists and paleontologists do. Until then, let's get a better understanding about what scientists have already discovered and the scale of geologic time.

**Directions:** Listed below are events or animals that existed or occurred in the Earth's past. Use page 8 & 9 from your ESRT to complete the time line on the back by writing these things in the proper sequence. Draw arrows if space becomes a problem and include the approximate time in millions of years.

Origin of Solar System

Earliest Stromatolites

Earliest Sharks

Extinction of Trilobites

Earliest Birds

Humans

Taconian Orogeny

Intrusion of Palisades Sill

Great Diversity of life with shelly parts

Oceanic Oxygen enters atmosphere

Earliest Fish

Earliest Dinosaurs

Placoderm Fish

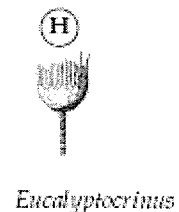
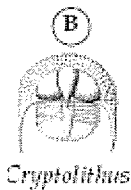
Earliest Mammals

Extinction of Dinosaurs

Catskill Delta forms

Oldest known rocks

Find these fossils along the bottom of the ESRT page 8 & 9 and place them on the timeline.



**Conclusion:** After you complete the timeline, what can you conclude about life on Earth and its distribution in time?

