

GEOLOGIC TIME

<http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/mse/earthsysflr/geotime.html>

Go to the above website to complete this activity!

PRECAMBRIAN

The Precambrian covers almost _____ % of Earth's history, and is often divided into three sections known as the _____, _____, and _____.

During the "Hades-like" era, the earth was covered with oceans of _____, boiling _____, and impact _____.

The air is made of nothing but _____ and _____, with traces of _____ and smelly _____ compounds.

An asteroid as large as Mars may have hit the earth, forming the _____.

If any life formed during this era, it was probably _____.

During the "Ancient" era, the water vapor has condensed to form the _____. The lava has cooled to form the _____. The only life that could be found is single-celled _____ floating in the ocean.

During the Proterozoic portion of the Precambrian, the cores of _____ are moving rapidly and colliding with each other over the surface. Life is still found in the oceans, but single-celled creatures appeared that had a real _____. Near the end, _____-celled organisms would appear.

Algae in the oceans is releasing free _____, which up until then was combining with iron to form iron deposits.

PALEOZOIC

The Paleozoic era lasted about _____ years; the Earth's _____ finally cooled down during this period, and volcanic activity slowed down to a few minor eruptions.

Most of the land is locked into two supercontinents: _____, which is wandering over the South Pole, and _____.

The atmospheric composition changes during the Paleozoic, mainly due to the addition of _____ by plants. The atmosphere is now about 4/5 _____ and 1/5 _____, with small amounts of _____, _____, and other gases.

At the beginning, life only existed in the _____. Land plants appeared during the _____ period. During the warm climate of the _____ and _____ periods, large forests and swamplands existed, which later became _____ beds.

Because of the abundance of animals that lacked backbones, the Paleozoic is known as the _____.

The worst extinction occurred at the end of the _____, in which _____ % of all life disappeared.

Life forms developed hard parts during this time, making them _____ as fossils.

MESOZOIC ERA

Mesozoic Era means “ _____ ” and lasted about _____ years.

The supercontinents _____ and _____ collided prior to the Mesozoic to form _____. During the Mesozoic, it breaks up and the _____ Ocean begins to form. The _____ mountains are a high, rugged mountain range similar to the _____ today.

The dominant animals on land and sea are _____; the most prominent form are the _____. _____ and _____ also appeared during the Mesozoic, as well as _____ and _____.

The earliest relatives of the dinosaurs were a group of animals called _____; the four groups of archosaurs are the _____, _____, _____ and _____.

The climate during the Mesozoic is so warm there are no _____.

More than _____ of all life forms disappeared at the end of the Mesozoic.

CENOZOIC ERA

The Cenozoic Era began about _____ years ago with the extinction of _____.

The term “Cenozoic” means _____, and covers less than _____ % of the earth’s geologic history.

During the Cenozoic, _____ broke up, _____ opened up from a narrow valley into an ocean, _____ collided with Asia to form the _____ mountains, pressure in the Pacific crumpled the west coasts of North and South America to form the _____ and _____ mountains.

The last few million years has seen the return of giant _____ and _____.

After the disappearance of the dinosaurs, _____ *diversified* and grew in size.

Giant glaciers about a _____ thick grew and shrank across continents several times. Each glacial cycle lasted about _____ years.

A possible explanation for Ice Ages was proposed by Milankovich: they are caused by changes in the _____ of the earth, particularly the _____ of the orbit, the _____ of the earth, and the _____ of the earth’s axis.

In the last _____ years, humanity has spread across the earth’s land and seas.