

# SECTION 1

## Teaching Transparency Activity

## Geologic Time Scale

Cenozoic Era	Quaternary Period	Holocene Epoch	0.008	Millions of years ago
		Pleistocene Epoch	1.8	
	Tertiary Period	Pliocene Epoch	5.3	← Himalaya rise
		Miocene Epoch	23.8	
		Oligocene Epoch	33.7	
		Eocene Epoch	55.5	
		Paleocene Epoch	65	← Mass extinction
Mesozoic Era	Cretaceous Period		145	← First flowering plants
	Jurassic Period		213	← First birds
	Triassic Period		248	← Pangaea breaks apart ← Mass extinction
Paleozoic Era	Permian Period		286	
	Pennsylvanian Period		325	← First reptiles
	Mississippian Period		360	
	Devonian Period		410	← First amphibians
	Silurian Period		440	← First land plants
	Ordovician Period		505	← First fish
	Cambrian Period		544	← First trilobites
Precambrian Time	Proterozoic Eon		2,500	
	Archaean Eon		3,800	← First life
	Hadean Eon		4,500	← Origin of Earth

**Teaching Transparency Activity** (continued)

1. Arrange the following terms in order of the length of time they represent. Place the longest time interval first: *period, era, epoch*.  

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2. Why is the fossil record from Precambrian time so sparse?  

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3. About how many years separate the beginning of the Devonian Period from the beginning of the Pennsylvanian Period? Which period is more recent?  

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4. During what era and period did the first amphibians appear?  

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5. Would researchers be amazed to find a 400-million-year-old fossil of a fish? Why or why not?  

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6. Would researchers think it unusual to find a bird fossil that dated back to the Permian Period? Why or why not?  

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