

Activity: Make a Geologic Timeline

Name: _____

Directions:

Read the directions carefully and complete the activity.

Arrange the 8 1/2" by 11" paper in landscape direction and tape the paper end to end until there is 5 meters of copying paper in a line.

Using a meter stick, draw a line through the middle of the paper from left to right. In the top left corner, make a scale. Label the scale: 1cm = 10 million years

Starting on the left side of the paper, measure 5 cm to the right on the line and make a vertical mark. Label this mark with the word—TODAY.

From this mark, measure 1 meter to the right on this line and make a vertical mark. Label this mark 1 billion years. Measure and mark each meter after that up to 4 meters or 4 billion years from today.

Now, measure 60 cm to make the total length of the timeline 4.6 meters. Mark and label this distance 4.6 billion years (The Beginning of Time).

Label the year and name of each era on your geologic time scale. Using the scale 1cm = 10 million years, measure the distance to each era from Today by using the following information.

Eras

Cenozoic Era = 65 million years ago = _____ cm from Today

Mesozoic Era = 245 million years ago = _____ cm from Today

Paleozoic Era = 545 million years ago = _____ cm from Today

Precambrian Era = 4.6 billion years ago = _____ cm from Today

Cut out each of the major events on the provided sheets and place them on the geologic time scale where you think they would go based on your current knowledge. Then look up the actual dates of the events and glue the events in the proper place on the timeline.

Using the finished geologic time line, compare the answers from the questionnaire on the next page to the geologic timeline. Add any interesting findings to your questionnaire sheet under part II.

MOST*

Inside This Packet

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1

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Questionnaire: Part I

When did dinosaurs first appear on Earth? _____

Did people and dinosaurs live at the same time? _____

Where did dinosaurs live? _____

Did all the dinosaurs live together, and at the same time? _____

What types of dinosaurs are there? _____

How do we know what happened to the dinosaurs? _____

What do paleontologists do? _____

Questionnaire: Part II

List some dates included on the Geologic Timeline that surprised you.

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