Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	mya	Life Forms	North American Events
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic (CZ)	Quaternary (Q)	Holocene (H)	0.01	Age of Mammals: Modern humans	Ice ages
			Pleistocene (PE)	2.6	Extinction of large mammals and birds; Large carnivores; Whales and apes	Cascade volcanoes (W); Linking of North and South America
		Tertiary (T): Neogene (N)	Pliocene (PL)	5.3		Sierra Nevada Mountains (W); Basin-and-Range extension (W)
			Miocene (MI)	23.0		
		Tertiary (T): Paleogene (PG)	Oligocene (OL)	33.9	Early primates	
			Eocene (E)	56.0		Laramide Orogeny ends (W)
			Paleocene (EP)	66.0	Mass extinction	
	Mesozoic (MZ)	Cretaceous (K)		145.0	Age of Dinosaurs: Placental mammals; Early flowering plants	Laramide Orogeny (W); Western Interior Seaway (W); Sevier Orogeny (W)
		Jurassic (J)		201.3		Nevadan Orogeny (W); Elko Orogeny (W); Breakup of Pangaea begins
		Triassic (TR)		252.2	Mass extinction; First mammals; Flying reptiles	Sonoma Orogeny (W)
	Paleozoic (PZ)	Permian (P)		298.9	Mass extinction; Age of Amphibians: Coal-forming forests diminish	Supercontinent Pangaea intact
		Pennsylvanian (PN)		323.2	Coal-forming swamps; Sharks abundant; First reptiles	Ouachita Orogeny (S); Alleghany (Appalachian) Orogeny (E)
		Mississippian (M)		358.9	Mass extinction; Fishes: First amphibians; First forests (evergreens)	Ancestral Rocky Mountains (W); Antler Orogeny (W); Acadian Orogeny (E-NE)
		Devonian (D)		419.2	First land plants	
		Silurian (S)		443.4	Mass extinction; Marine Invertebrates: First primitive fish; Trilobite maximum	Taconic Orogeny (E-NE)
		Ordovician (O)		485.4	Rise of corals; Early shelled organisms	Extensive oceans cover most of proto-North America (Laurentia)
		Cambrian (C)		541.0		Avalonian Orogeny (NE)
Proterozoic	Precambrian (PC, X, Y, Z)			2500	First multicelled organisms; Jellyfish fossil (~670 mya)	Supercontinent rifted apart; Formation of early supercontinent; Grenville Orogeny (E); First iron deposits; Abundant carbonate rocks
Archean				4000	Early bacteria and algae	Oldest known Earth rocks (~3.96 billion years ago)
Hadean				4600	Origin of life; Formation of the Earth	Oldest moon rocks (4–4.6 billion years ago); Formation of Earth's crust